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#104

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YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE ALIEN TERRORS!

PAGE 31

EERIE No. 104

HODG • BEASTWORLD • MAC TAVISH • HORIZON SEEKERS



Kirk
Reinert



SEE SPECIAL AD ON
INSIDE-BACK
COVER!

NEW STAR WARS SPACE STUFF!

IMPERIAL CRUISER

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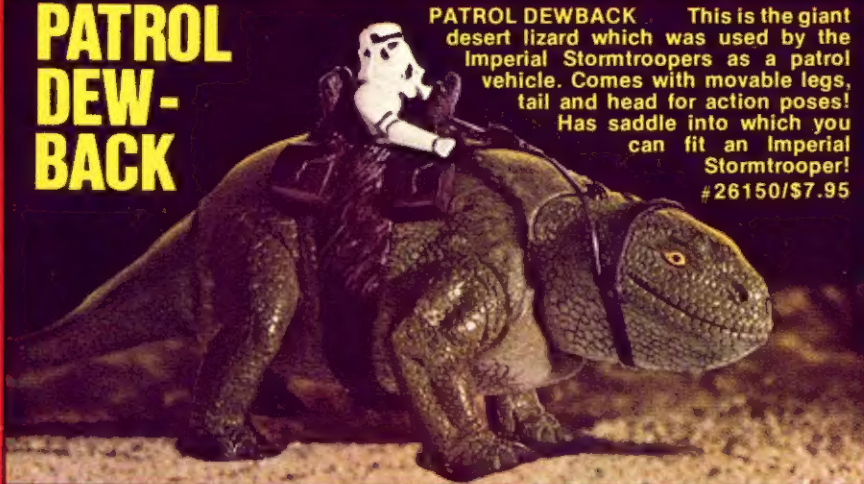
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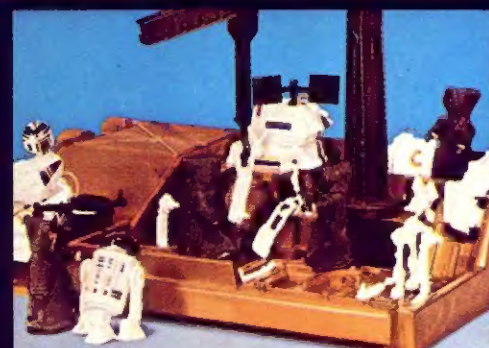
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EERIE®

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SEPTEMBER 1979

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NEW SUBSCRIBERS, PLEASE ALLOW 8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF FIRST ISSUE.

4 DEAR COUSIN EERIE Is this any way to treat your beloved cousin? Not that he feels any more crotchety than usual, he never-the-less feels as if he's being neglected by all his long standing friends. Cheer him up & drop him a line!

5 ROOK Cantankerous Bishop Dane and his metallic friend Manners have sneaked off into the future again in a semi-stolen time castler. Meanwhile, back in the present, Restin Dane is in the middle of a robot rebellion at his time factory!

16 THE COMIC BOOKS Joe Brancatelli laments the transformations that have taken place in the comic books industry since his salad days as a youthful collector. And Brancatelli includes a list of sources for neophyte comic collectors!

17 TRESPASSER: Dusk in the Ruins. 30,000 radioactive ruins on the U.S. and no one can understand why people are being born retarded and dying from exotic forms of cancer. Most people just can't Cope and the few who can are killed!

25 CITY OF SHADOWS Somewhere out in the shifting dunes lay the buried ruins of an ancient super-civilization. They would never find it. Not in the blistering heat of day or in the rock cracking cold of the night. They were almost dead!

31 BEASTWORLD I It was a curious little world, and so were the two people who inhabited it. One was voluptuous but not terribly bright and the other was up to something his guests knew was suspicious. If only they could figure it out!

45 OPEN SKY: VLADAMIR From the underground caverns of Arianne's existence to the open sky in a hot air balloon! Moonshadow takes his pursuit of the Jade Arm into the air with the help of Vladimir and Nikoli, the two headed mutant!

55 HORIZON SEEKERS: Temple. Jesse and Allison wander the post-holocaust world to discover one bizarre phenomenon after another. And through it all they can't understand what's happened to the world or find the reason why!

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Dear Cousin Eerie,

Could you possibly tell me which issues of EERIE the Rook has appeared in? I'm a real Rook fanatic and would like to know so I can get my collection up to date!

JEFF NEELY
Farmers Branch, Tx.



The Rook saga begins with EERIE #82 and is continued through #85, #87 through #95 and #98 through the present. And, good news to all Rook fans, the Rook now has his own magazine. Special collector's issue #1, filled with the all new adventures of the Rook and his compatriots, will be on your newsstands July 31st!

I just had to write about EERIE #100! Truthfully, this was only the second issue I've ever bought, and I bought it solely to see Starlin's "Darklon," which I had read only once before (#76). That was a definite mistake for, though the Darklon story was terrific, I find myself very interested in the adventures of this 'Rook' character.

I have been a long-time comic book fan and collector, and yet agree with much of what Joe Brancatelli has to say. I do not know how much praise the man gets, but consider this message as 'relaying' the info! What I appreciate most in a magazine such as EERIE are the many series characters, as opposed to offbeat 'singular' stories. Well, #100 may have only been the 2nd issue I've ever read, but I'll be watching regularly from this day forth. . . !

I would like to see your "Hunter" series character, who I have heard much of, but never seen! I'll be watching and, of course, sending for back issues this summer. But first, let me make a few suggestions: in my opinion, EERIE should be a showcase for SF as well as series heroes, while CREEPY should showcase horror and offbeat. In this way, fans like myself would not have to flip thru an issue at the newsstands, to see if they were interested in a particular issue. The same could then be said for CREEPY fans, who are interested in that format. People who like both could get "the best of both worlds."

PHIL LATTER
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Lee Elias' Rook is:

- ☐ BRILLIANT
- ☐ HO-HUM
- ☐ APPALLING
- ☐ WHO? WHAT?

I really enjoyed reading the latest Rook story. The art by Jim Starlin and Alfredo Alcala was excellent. I'm new to the Warren magazines, but I've really gotten to like them. All the Warren's have consistently great covers and the stories are very good too.

The cover on EERIE #101 was really nice because I think robots make great covers. I hope Rich Corben will be doing more covers for EERIE in the near future.

Someone once wrote that a color section would make EERIE worth \$1.75. I suppose it's a pipe dream, but I can always wish for an all color issue!

JEFF RINDE
Endicott, N.Y.



EERIE #101's Robot cover was created by Jim Laurier, Jeff. His use of brilliant color and rounded form no doubt caused you to confuse his work with Corben's.

Lee Elias is loose!? Was that the 26 page symphony of "washes, charcoals and juicy blacks" that Joe Brancatelli raved about in his column in #102? Aside from looking as if Brancatelli doesn't know what he is talking about when it comes to scheduling, it also looks as if he has no taste at all. "The Terror of the Space Ways" was a well told tale, but it sure doesn't deserve the kind of encomiums it received. Lee Elias is merely adequate as an artist, especially in this series. If you want to see good art, or good SF art, try looking at Pablo Marcos with his "Stitch in Time" or more recently his "John Donne and the Asteroid Pirates" which appeared in VAMPIRELLA #80.

DANIEL DUNFEY
Anchorage, Alaska

Issue #102 was faaaantaastic!!!

"Ophiophobia," "Tracks," "Earthquake Stick" and "Neatness Counts" were my favorite four. I haven't collected EERIE since #75 and I can't begin to imagine the great art and terrific stories I've missed!

EERIE has improved tremendously since #75 and is getting better with every passing issue.

PETER HARRISON
New Bedford, Mass.

EERIE #102 was a mixed bag. I'll hit the high points first, beginning with the Sanjulian cover. This was his first for Warren in many moons . . . since he started hanging around with some guy named Conan. Anyway, it's good to have him back, even just this once!

Then, of course, there was the Rook. More to the point, there was Lee Elias. I don't know if "Terror of the Spaceways" is the first part of the story that Joe Brancatelli was gushing over in his column this issue. If it is, I can see what all the excitement was about. It contained some of the most beautiful wash drawing I've ever seen in a comic. Page 11, especially, displayed a craftsmanship too seldom in view these days. More!

Bill DuBay, too, was in top form. I suppose some would say that too much paper was wasted on minor characters who end up dead anyway. But in a long story, such as this, it was acceptable. And DuBay always does better in longer lengths. Now that the Rook is getting his own magazine, he's leaving EERIE in style.

"Siege", the latest episode in the "Horizon Seekers" series, wasn't quite up to the stories that went before. It seemed to be marking time, so things may pick up again. Meanwhile, there was Leo Duranona's fine art to admire.

"The Earthquake Stick" was more typical of the Budd Lewis tales of old than some of his recent work ("Gottterdammerung", for instance). This one had his strong characterization, a tight storyline, and a suitably gruesome ending. Jose Ortiz, too, was in fine form here. More stories like this would be welcome.

"Ophiophobia" proved what I said about Bill DuBay being better suited to writing long stories. This one had an unoriginal idea developed along conventional and mediocre lines.

"Tracks", while as skillfully done as possible, still suffered from a fatal flaw. There was no way to avoid telegraphing the ending. When the ending is as important as it was here, that's enough to ruin everything.

As for "Neatness Counts", the artwork by Buz Vaultz was gorgeous. Otherwise, these one-joke vignettes do nothing for me. It seems a lot of work for nothing.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.

The "Horizon Seekers" keeps getting better and better! Leo Duranona is doing some of the finest line work in all comic books! And this series seems to be bringing out the best he has ever done. Oddly enough he also seems to work very well in photographs which is a totally different style of art. Here I'm thinking of "Fungus" (which appeared in VAMPIRELLA) and "Fangs" (a CREEPY tale). Terrific! Leo Duranona should be treasured for the fine artist he is!

In total contrast to Duranona there was that awful piece by Martin Salvador in EERIE #102. The art was terrible and the story by Bill DuBay was much worse. The only nice thing about "Ophiophobia" thing was the title.

DAVID BLACK
Tilden, Kan.

I am very disappointed with EERIE #102. I particularly disliked "Tracks" written by Roger McKenzie and Bill DuBay's "Ophiophobia". Both stories had disturbingly violent endings which absolutely revolted me.

Generally I enjoy Warren Publications but I do not think the stories should rely on such graphically shocking endings for their impact. I encourage you to keep printing spooky, unusual stories that inspire the imagination (stories like "Quimby the Barbarian" by Bob Toomey in CREEPY #106).

Also, I suggest that the stories be lengthened so that instead of six short stories (which often require revolting shock endings to give them any meaning at all) there be three or four longer, more developed tales.

JOHN HUMPHREYS
Fort Worth, Tex.

Dear Cousin Eerie,
c/o Warren
Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE SOUNDS OF **BATTLE** TO REVERBERATE OFF THE CLOISTERED WALLS OF **RESTIN DANE'S** SECLUDED DESERT CASTLE.

AN **OLD MAN** AND A **TIN MAN** ETERNALLY BUTT THICK-SKINNED, BULLISH HEADS IN AN ENDLESS GOOD-NATURED DUEL OF **WITS**.

SUNDAY NIGHT, HOWEVER, HERALDS A PARTICULARLY LOUD DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS FOR THAT IS, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE NIGHT OF **MANNERS** AND **BISHOP DANE'S** FAVORITE TELEVISION PROGRAM: **BATTLE-STAR WARS!**

The ROOK

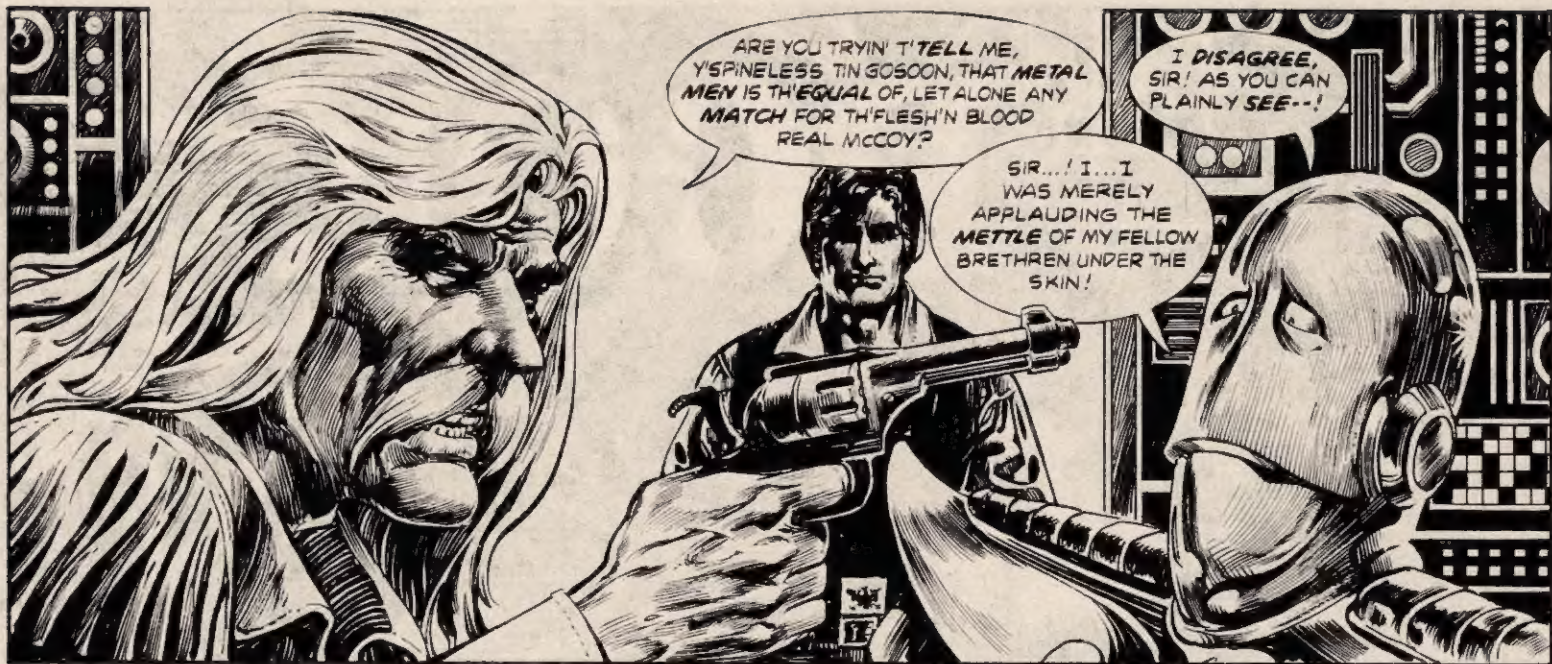


OH, MASTER RESTIN, SIR, I CAN SCANT CONTAIN MY JUBILATION. MY LITTLE TELEMETRIC CIRCUITS ARE A'PATTER FROM THE UTTER EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL!

JUST SEE HOW MY IRON-CLAD IDOLS ARE HOLDING THE BARBARIC FORCES OF THE WAR-LIKE HUMANS AT BAY!

BARBARIC!? WARLIKE!?

WHY YOU BOOGAR-BRAINED DULLARD! ANYBODY KIN SEE THAT THE GOD-FEARIN', BLOOD-LUSTIN' WARRIORS A'EARTH IS KICKIN' TH'TIN CANS A YER RUSTY SYCOPHANTS FROM HERE T'ANDROMEDA AN'BACK!



ARE YOU TRYIN' T'TELL ME, Y'SPINELESS TIN GOSCOON, THAT METAL MEN IS TH'EQUAL OF, LET ALONE ANY MATCH FOR TH'FLESH'N BLOOD REAL MCCOY?

I DISAGREE, SIR! AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE--!

SIR...! I...I WAS MERELY APPLAUDING THE METTLE OF MY FELLOW BRETHREN UNDER THE SKIN!



PLEASE DON'T MISCONSTRUE MY EBULLIENT ENTHUSIASM AS A SLIGHT AGAINST ANY MEMBER OF THE NOBLE HUMAN SPECIES.

I HAVE THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR ALL OF YOUR KIND, SIR, AND AM DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE INROADS YOU PERSONALLY HAVE MADE FOR ROBOT EQUALITY AND MECHANIZED INTEGRATION!

KANG!

Y'DAMNED WELL BETTER BE, Y'BLOCK-BRAINED FUMBLER! JUST LET ONE'A YOU JIVIN' TIN BUGABOOS ASSUME ANY POSITION OTHER THAN THAT DIRECTLY UNDER M'FEET, AND I'LL KNOW RIGHT QUICK HOW T'DEAL WITH YA'S!



HAHA! GRANDFATHER... ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'RE GOING TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY CAUSE A ROBOT UPRISING RIGHT HERE IN ROOK MANOR!

WHO? ME!? HOW KIN Y'SAY SUCH A THING, BOY? ME AN' OL' SLUG-FACE HERE GETS ALONG FAMOUSLY!



LET'S SEE IF YOU TWO CAN'T STAY OUT OF TROUBLE WHILE I'M AWAY, OKAY!?

I'M NEEDED DOWN AT THE TIME FACTORY AND SHOULD BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO.

IN THE MEAN-TIME... BEHAVE! AND THAT MEANS NO GALAVANTING OFF IN ONE OF MY TIME CASTLES!



WHY, BOY... YOU KNOWS YOU KIN TRUST US!

HA!



QUICK, Y'ICKFINGERED BE-ZONIAN MISCREANT...! TO THE TIME CHINES!

YOU HEARD THE BOY, WE'VE ONLY GOT US AN HOUR!

BUT... BUT, MASTER BISHOP, SIR--!



I SAID
HE COULD
TRUST US!
I DIDN'T SAY
NOTHIN' 'BOUT
NOT VENTURIN'
OFF THROUGH
INFINITY!

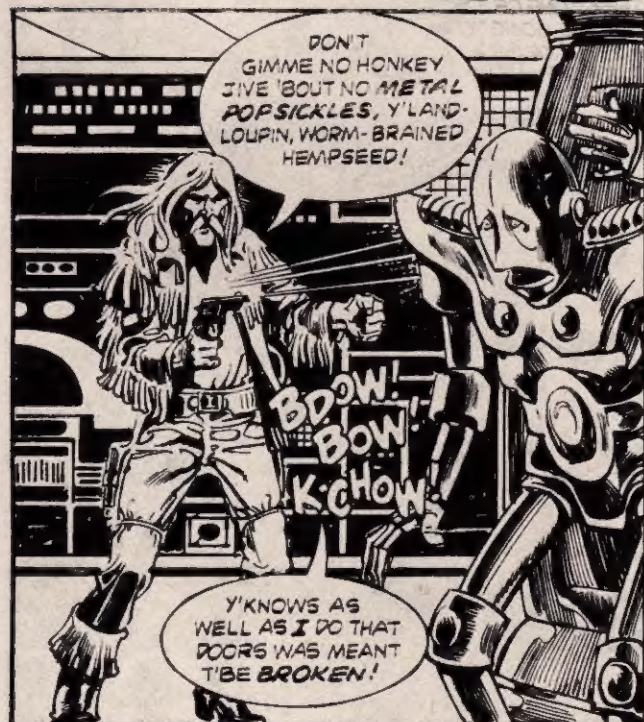
OOOOH!
I KNEW
IT! HERE
WE GO
AGAIN!



HURRY
IT UP, Y'USELESS
PILE OF JUNK! GIT THAT
TIME CASTLE REVVED,
WHILST I FIGURE OUT
WHERE WE'S OFF TO!

AH, SIR...
WOULD THAT I COULD!
BUT IT APPEARS THAT
MASTER RESTIN DOES NOT
TRUST YOU AS MUCH AS
YOU WOULD LIKE TO
BELIEVE!

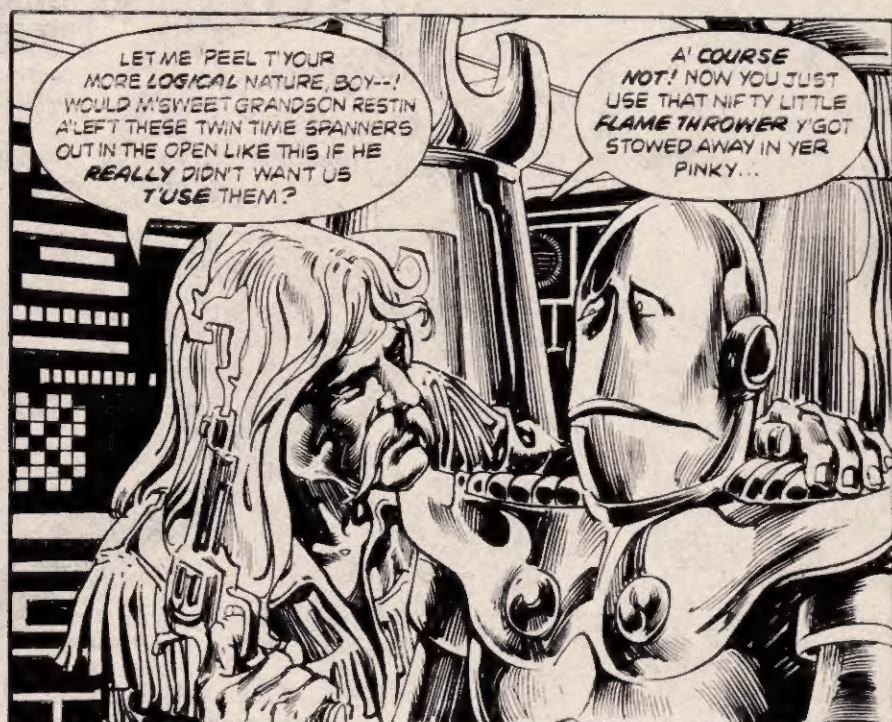
A VERY
FORMIDABLE METAL
OBSTACLE IS BARRING
OUR ENTRANCE INTO
THE TIME CASTLE.



DON'T
GIMME NO HONKEY
JIVE 'BOUT NO METAL
POPSICKLES, Y'LAND-
LOUPIN, WORM-BRAINED
HEMPSEED!

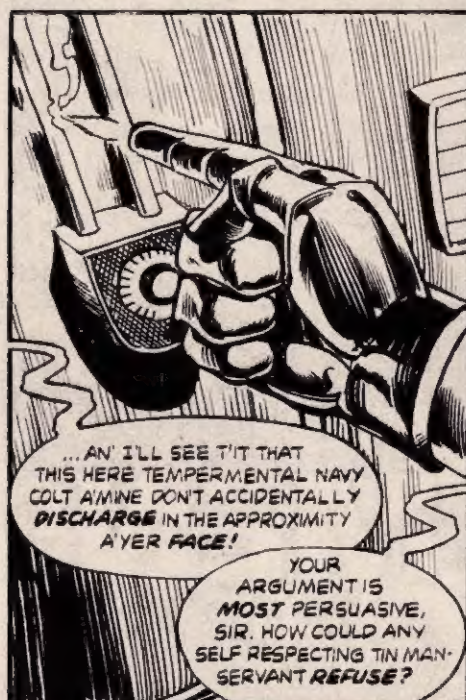
BOW!
BOW!
K'CHOW!

Y'KNOWS AS
WELL AS I DO THAT
DOORS WAS MEANT
T'BE BROKEN!



LET ME 'PEEL T' YOUR
MORE LOGICAL NATURE, BOY--!
WOULD M'SWEET GRANDSON RESTIN
A'LEFT THESE TWIN TIME SPANNERS
OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS IF HE
REALLY DIDN'T WANT US
T'USE THEM?

A' COURSE
NOT! NOW YOU JUST
USE THAT NIFTY LITTLE
FLAME THROWER Y'GOT
STOWED AWAY IN YER
PINKY...



...AN' I'LL SEE T'IT THAT
THIS HERE TEMPERMENTAL NAVY
COLT A'MINE DON'T ACCIDENTALLY
DISCHARGE IN THE APPROXIMITY
A'YER FACE!

YOUR
ARGUMENT IS
MOST PERSUASIVE,
SIR. HOW COULD ANY
SELF RESPECTING TIN MAN-
SERVANT REFUSE?



HAHA!
NOW'S WE'S
GETTIN'
SOMEWHERE'S!

THAT SLICKSTER
GRANDSON A'MINE OUGHTTA
KNOW BY NOW THAT THERE JUST
AIN'T NO STOPPIN' OL' BISH ONCE
HE SETS HIS MIND TO A THING!



BELIEVE
ME, SIR...
I THINK HE
KNOWS!

HAVE
A GOOD
TRIP,
GRANDPA!

-R

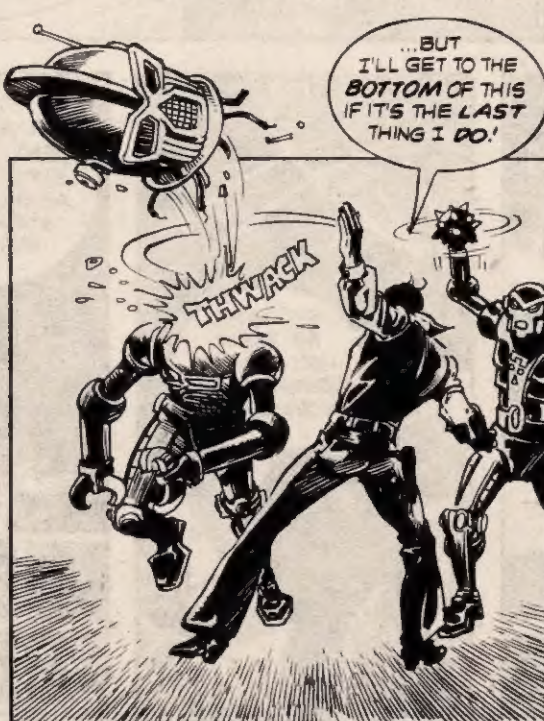
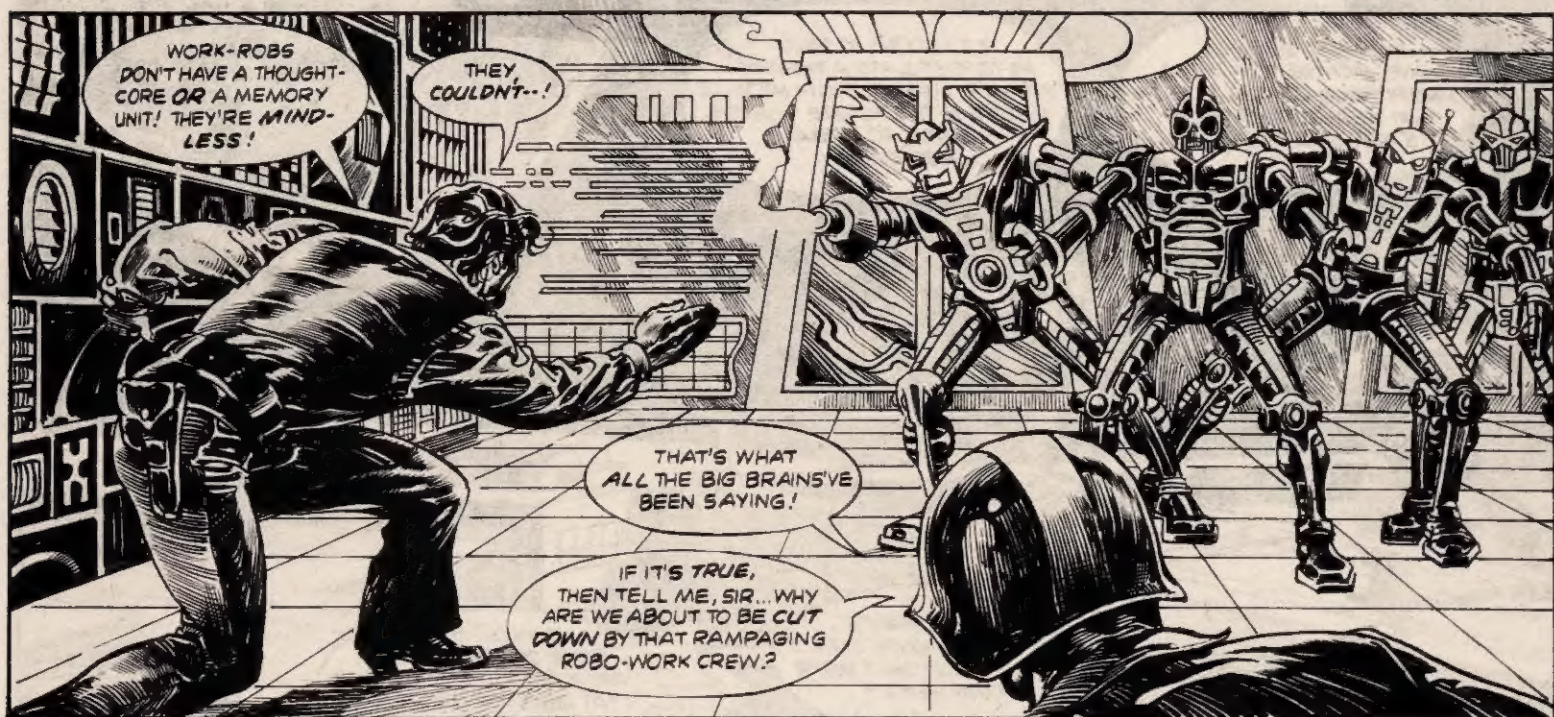
SHRILL SIRENS ECHO THROUGH THE CAVERNOUS INTERIOR OF THE COMPLEX UNDERGROUND TIME FACTORY.

ARMED GUARDS RACE IN MYRIAD DIRECTIONS, RESPONDING TO THE DEAFENING ALARMS... SECURING VALUABLE EQUIPMENT, AND PROTECTING IRREPLACEABLE PERSONNEL FROM THE UNSEEN THREAT IMPERILING RESTIN DANE'S GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED RESEARCH CENTER...!

WHAT THE--!?
THE FACTORY'S IN
UTTER CHAOS!

SOMETHING'S
WRONG!
DESPERATELY
WRONG! I'VE GOT TO
GET DOWN THERE!
FAST!

THE TROUBLE WITH TIN MEN!

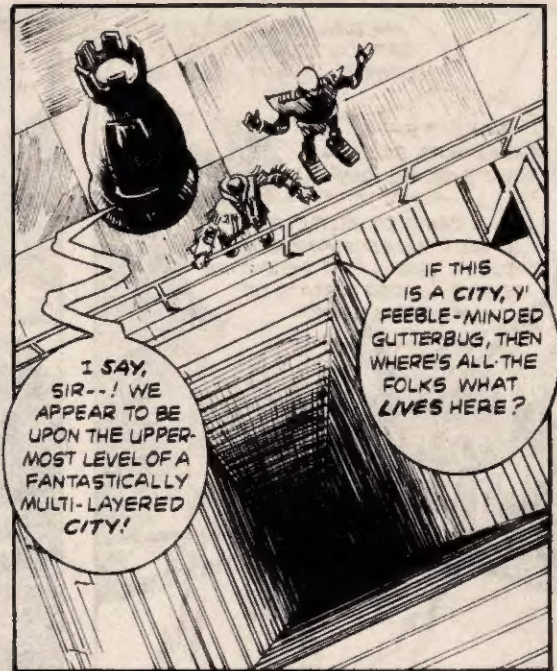


OBLIVIOUS TO THE RUNAWAY HORRORS IN THE TIME FACTORY, **MANNERS** AND **BISHOP DANE** PLOT THEIR TIME-SPANNING CHESSPIECE INTO THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF A FAR-FLUNG TOMORROW!

THIS IS IT, TIN MAN, WE'RE SLOWIN' DOWN!

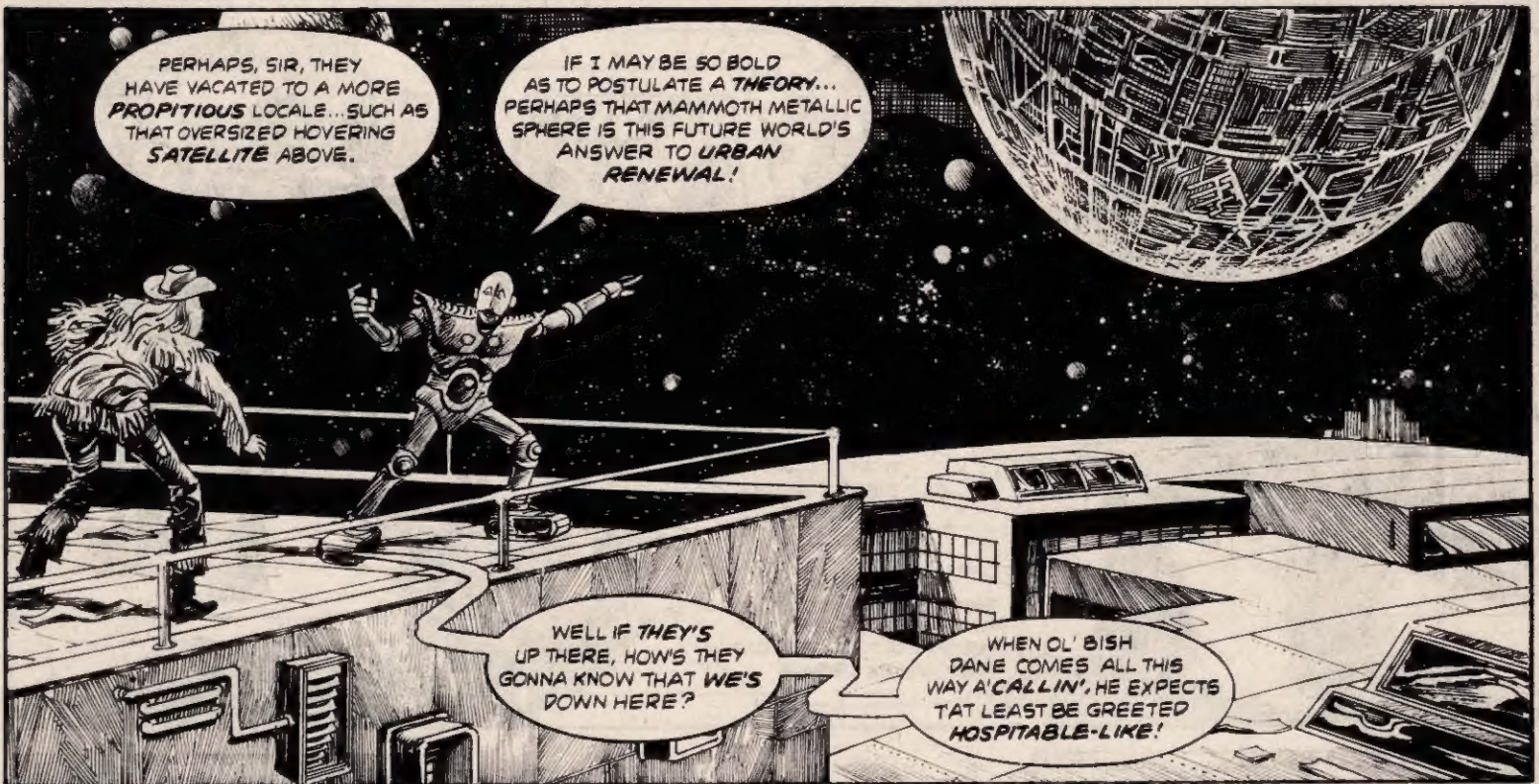


LET'S YOU'N ME SEE ONCE AND FOR ALL WHAT **UNGODLY SURPRISES** IS WAITIN' FOR US IN THIS BOGTROTTIN' WORLD'A TH' FUTURE!



I SAY, SIR--! WE APPEAR TO BE UPON THE UPPER-MOST LEVEL OF A FANTASTICALLY MULTI-LAYERED CITY!

IF THIS IS A CITY, Y' FEEBLE-MINDED GUTTERBUG, THEN WHERE'S ALL THE FOLKS WHAT LIVES HERE?



PERHAPS, SIR, THEY HAVE VACATED TO A MORE PROPITIOUS LOCALE...SUCH AS THAT OVERSIZED HOVERING SATELLITE ABOVE.

IF I MAY BE SO BOLD AS TO POSTULATE A THEORY... PERHAPS THAT MAMMOTH METALLIC SPHERE IS THIS FUTURE WORLD'S ANSWER TO URBAN RENEWAL!

WELL IF THEY'S UP THERE, HOW'S THEY GONNA KNOW THAT WE'S DOWN HERE?

WHEN OL' BISH DANE COMES ALL THIS WAY A'CALLIN', HE EXPECTS TAT LEAST BE GREETED HOSPITABLE-LIKE!



AS IF IN ANSWER TO BISHOP'S ERUDITE ELUCIDATION, TWIN AIRSHIPS **STREAK** FROM CONCEALED HANGARS IN THE SATELLITE, HURTLING AT THE SPEED OF SOUND TOWARDS THE VISITORS FROM AN ALMOST-FORGOTTEN PAST!



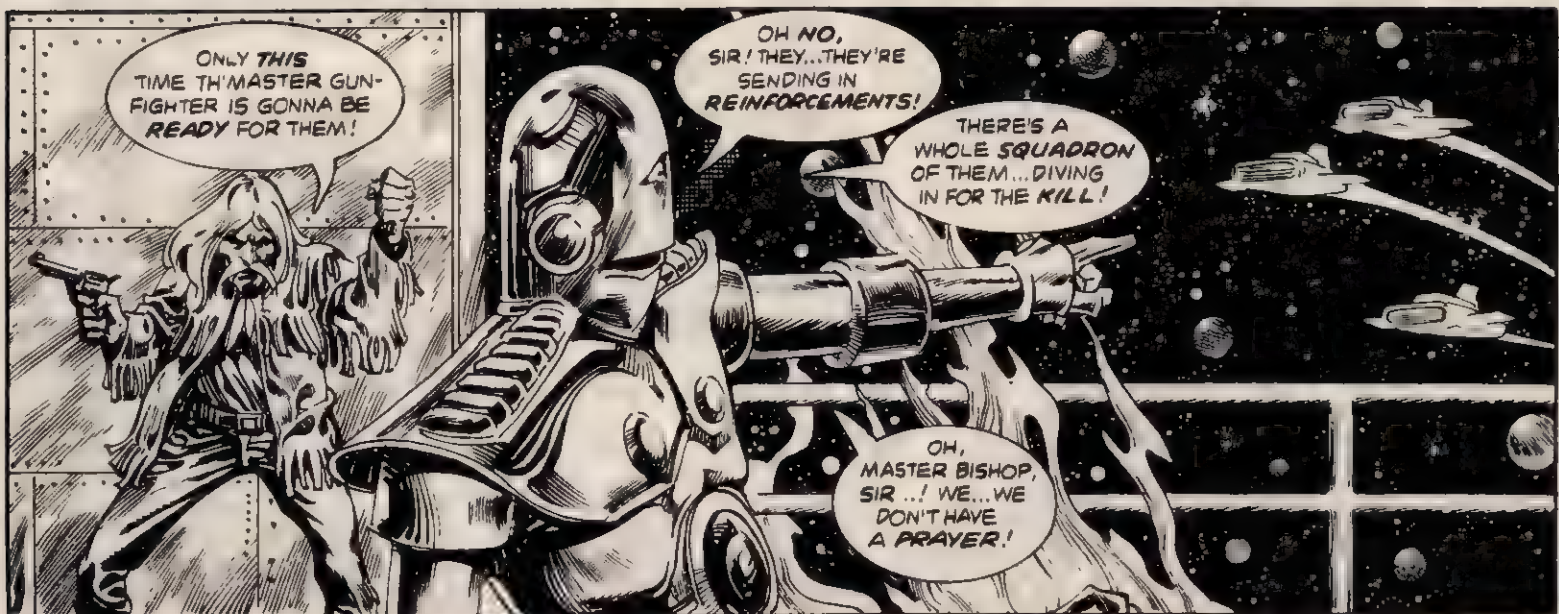
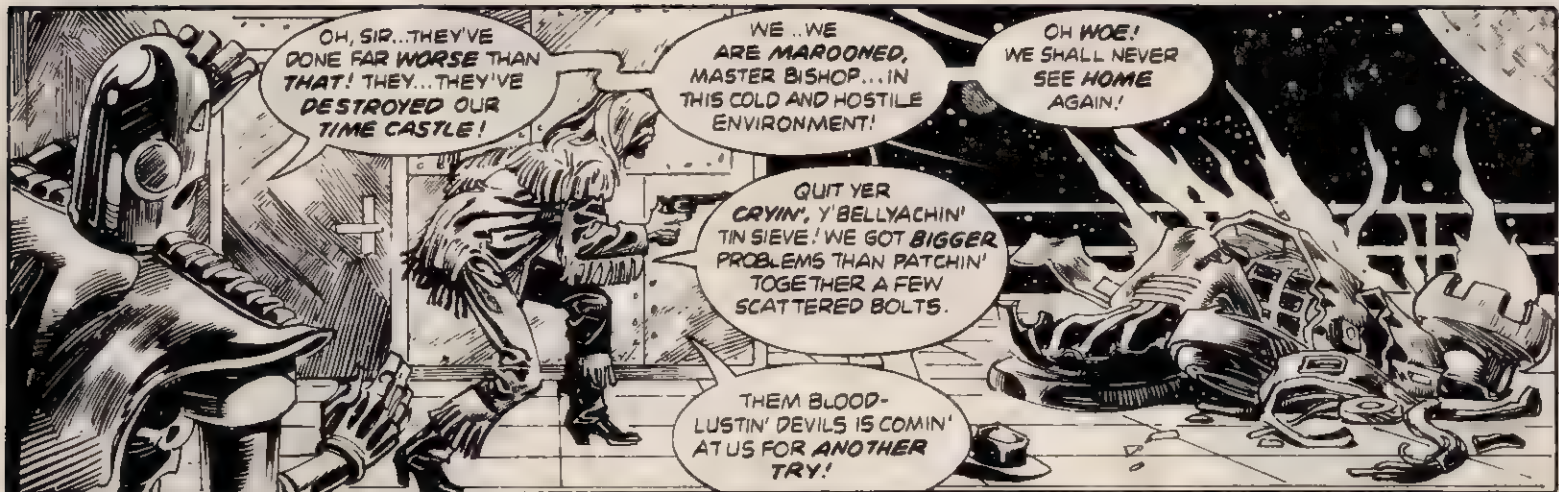
THIS MUST BE THEIR WELCOMING COMMITTEE NOW, SIR!



THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! RED CARPET TREATMENT...THAT'S WHAT Y'GOTTA EXPECT BOY, WHEN YOU'RE A GENUINE **LIVIN' LEGEND** STRAIGHT FROM THE PAGES A'HISTORY!

ER... YES, SIR!

SUDDENLY, THE "RECEPTION COMMITTEE" OPENS FIRE, WITH A BURST OF DEADLY LASERS THAT SLICE THROUGH SOLID STEEL!



AS THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER PREPARES FOR HIS SHOWDOWN, THE MASTER OF TIME
PITS HIS SKILLS AND HIS SINEW IN A DEADLY STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RAMPAGING
TERRORS OF TECHNOLOGY RUN AMOK!

DAMMIT!
THERE'S TOO MANY OF
THEM! THEY'RE COMING AT
ME FROM ALL SIDES!

IT'S AS IF SOME
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
IS GUIDING THESE MACHINES
...AND FOCUSING ITS ATTENTION
ON ME! AS IF I AM IT'S
TARGET!

BUT WHY?
AND MORE
IMPORTANT...
HOW?

WHOM!

IN HERE,
MR. DANE...!
HURRY!

WE'RE
READY
FOR THEM!

I HOPE
YOU ARE,
SOLDIER...

...OR THIS IS ONE
LESS TAXPAYER UNCLE
SAM'LL HAVE TO COLLECT
FROM COME NEXT APRIL!

TWO DOZEN AUTOMATIC WEAPONS EXPLODE SIMULTANEOUSLY! THE DEAFENING DIN OF BATTLE ECHOES THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBERS.
THEIR BACKS AGAINST A WALL, THE MEN CAN FLEE NO FARTHER. THEY FIGHT FOR THEIR VERY LIVES IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL, THE
ULTIMATE CONTEST OF MAN VERSUS HIS MACHINES!



WHILE MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, MORE MACHINES SWOOP FROM EARTH'S BLACKENED SKIES

THEIR TARGETS: A DESPERATE AND AGING BUT SPIRITED **GUNFIGHTER** AND A FRIGHTENED MECHANICAL **MAN-SERVANT**, BOTH OF WHOM ARE BLISSFULLY **UNAWARE**...

...THAT THE INTELLIGENCE **GUIDING** THE KILLER STARFIGHTERS...IS UNLIKE ANY OF WHICH THEY HAVE EVER DREAMED!

HAUL TAIL, Y'MUDDLE-BRAINED SCROUNGER! THEM BUTCHERIN' DIVEBOMBERS MAY'A MISSED US TH' FIRST TIME 'ROUND...

SLOOM!



.. BUT I AIN'T WILLIN' T'STAKE M'LIFE ON THEM BEIN' SUCH PISS-POOR SHOTS A SECOND TIME!

THIS WAY, USELESS! I AIN'T YET SEEN A AIR MACHINE WHAT COULD FLY WORTH A DAMNED INSIDE FOUR SEQUESTERED WALLS!



WE OUGHTTA BE SAFE IN HERE FOR AWHILE!

THERE DON'T PEER T'BE A SOUL AROUND!



GAK!



STAND BACK, OLD BROTHER! I'LL DESTROY THE METAL BEAST WHO FOLLOWS YOU!

HUH?!

DESTROY WHAT METAL BEAST? YOU MEAN...

...MANNERS!?



NOOOO!

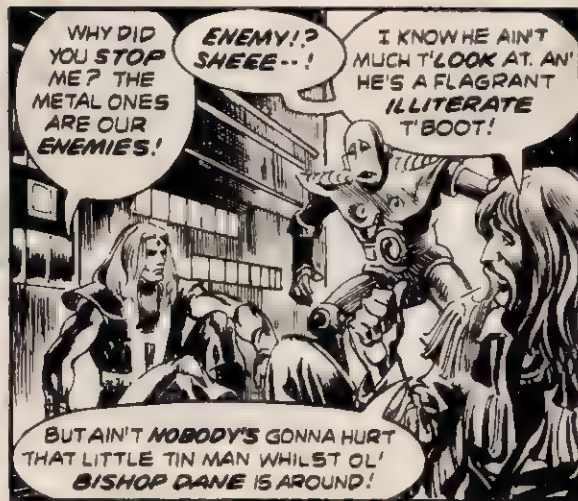


WHY DID YOU STOP ME? THE METAL ONES ARE OUR ENEMIES!

ENEMY!? SHEEE--!

I KNOW HE AIN'T MUCH T'LOOK AT. AN' HE'S A FLAGRANT ILLITERATE T'BOOT!

BUT AIN'T NOBODY'S GONNA HURT THAT LITTLE TIN MAN WHILST OL' BISHOP DANE IS AROUND!





DANE...?
AS IN RESTIN
DANE, FROM THE
OLDEN TIMES?

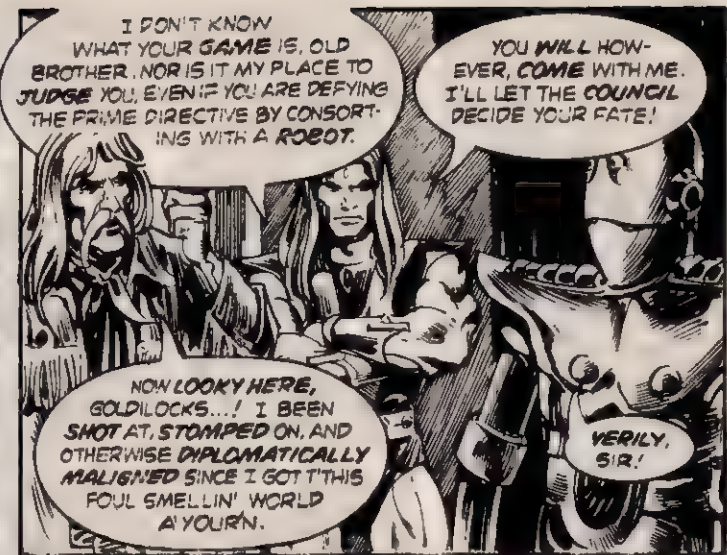
ARE YOU
A DESCENDANT
OF THE GREAT
INVENTOR?

DESCENDANT!?
IN A HOG'S EYE! I'M HIS
GRANDRAPPY BISHOP!
AIN'T Y'NEVER HEARD'A
TH'FASTEST GUN IN
TH'WEST?

BISHOP
DANE? AND
RESTIN DANE'S
ROBOT MAN-
SERVANT...
MANNERS!?

IT ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

INDEED,
SIR! IT MUST BE
FOR ARE WE NOT
STANDING INCONTESTABLY
BEFORE YOU?

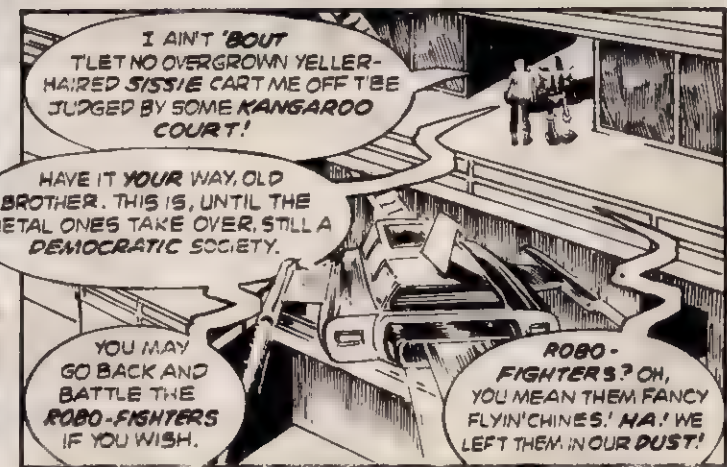


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOUR GAME IS, OLD
BROTHER. NOR IS IT MY PLACE TO
JUDGE YOU, EVEN IF YOU ARE DEFYING
THE PRIME DIRECTIVE BY CONSORT-
ING WITH A ROBOT.

YOU WILL HOW-
EVER, COME WITH ME.
I'LL LET THE COUNCIL
DECIDE YOUR FATE!

NOW LOOKY HERE,
GOLDLOCKS...! I BEEN
SHOT AT, STOMPED ON, AND
OTHERWISE DIPLOMATICALLY
MALIGNED SINCE I GOT T'THIS
FOUL SMELLIN' WORLD
A'YOURN.

VERILY,
SIR!



I AINT 'BOUT
T'LET NO OVERGROWN YELLER-
HAIRD SISSIE CART ME OFF T'EE
JUDGED BY SOME KANGAROO
COURT!

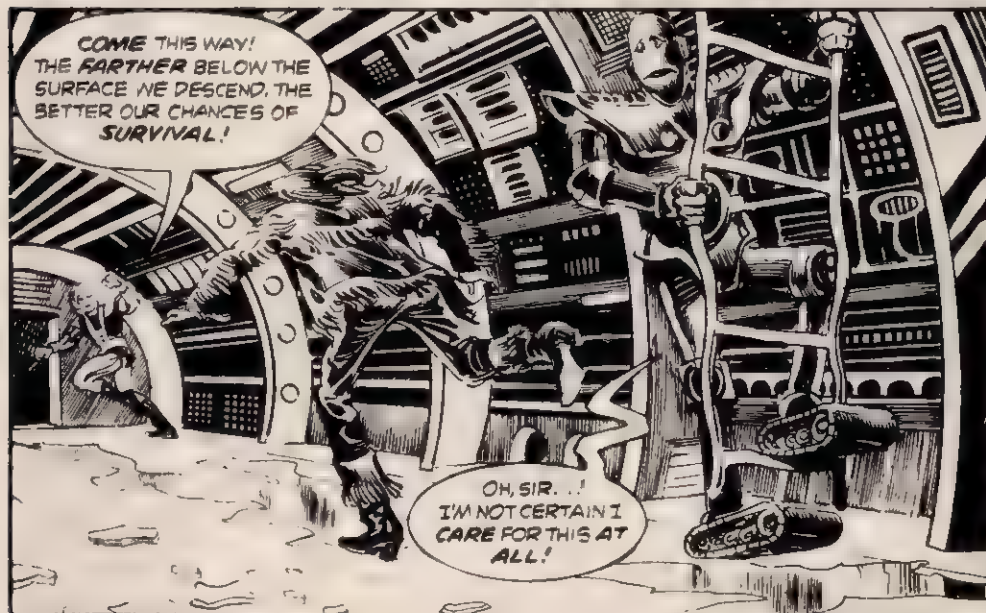
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, OLD
BROTHER. THIS IS, UNTIL THE
METAL ONES TAKE OVER, STILL A
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

YOU MAY
GO BACK AND
BATTLE THE
ROBO-FIGHTERS
IF YOU WISH.

ROBO-
FIGHTERS? OH,
YOU MEAN THEM FANCY
FLYIN'CHINES! HA! WE
LEFT THEM IN OUR DUST!

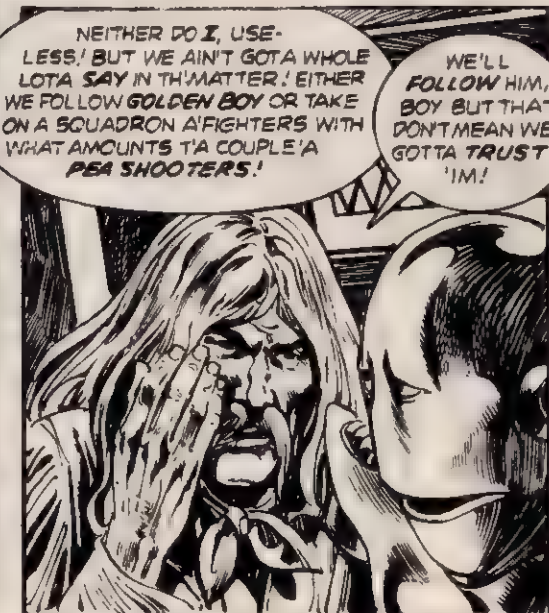


HOLD IT UP A
MIGHT THERE, BLONDIE...!
Y'MIGHT COULD GIVE US
THE NICKEL TOUR
AFTER ALL!



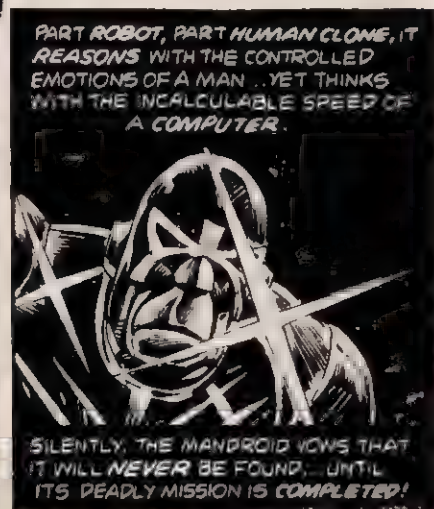
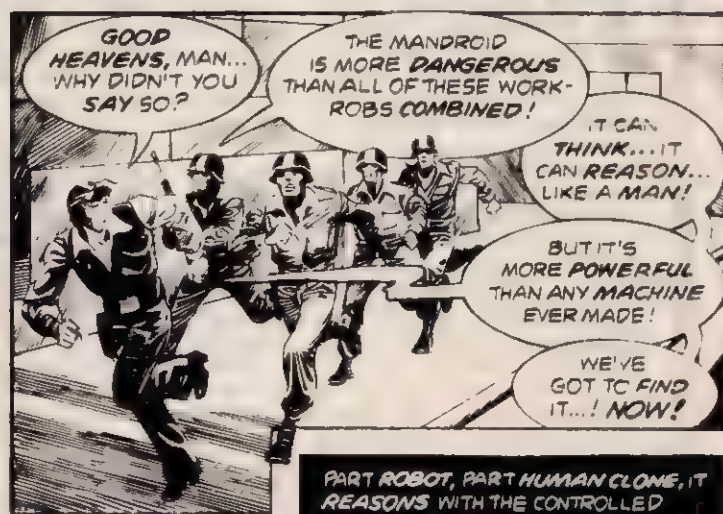
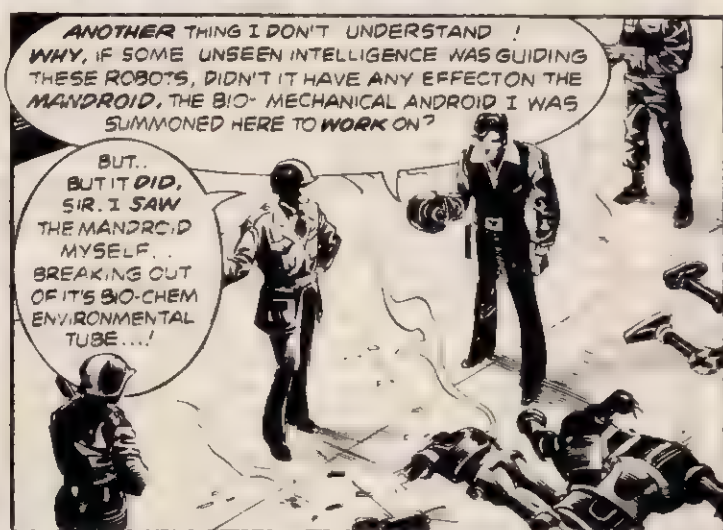
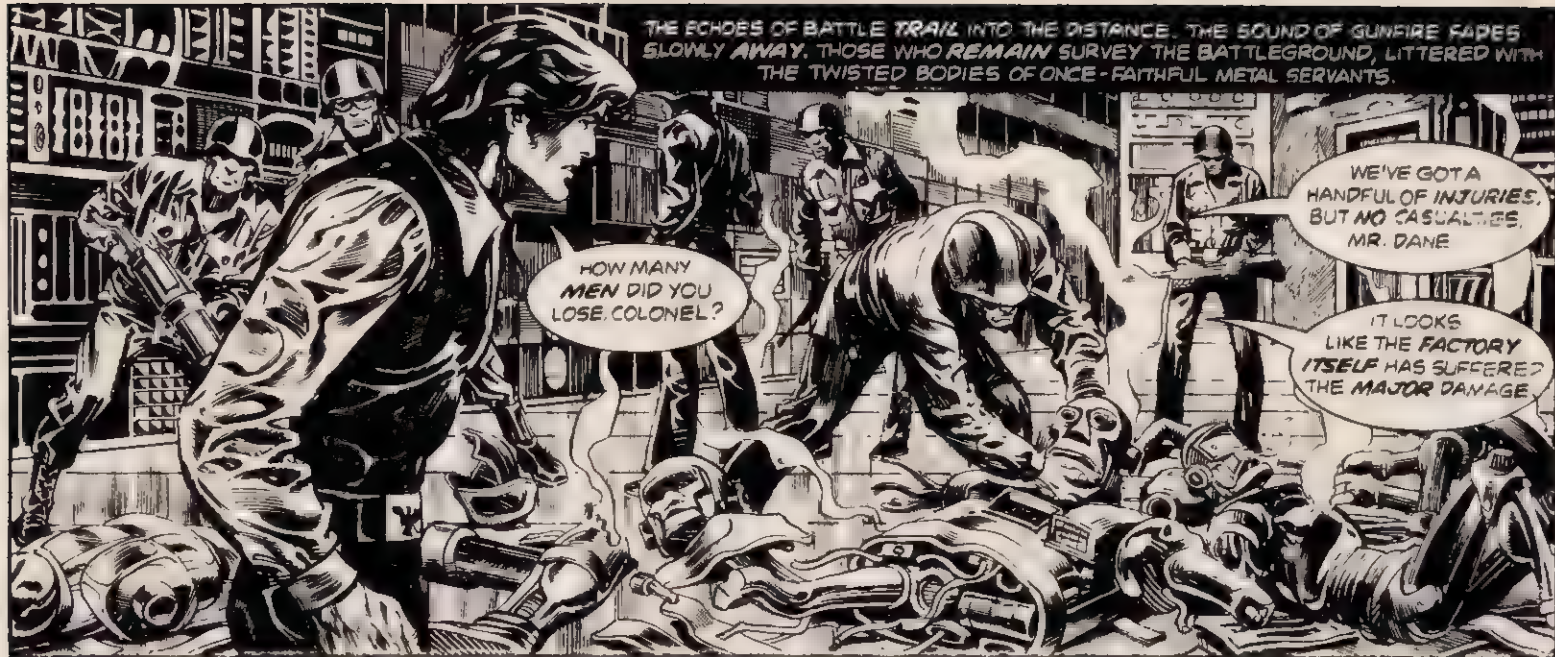
COME THIS WAY!
THE FARTHER BELOW THE
SURFACE WE DESCEND, THE
BETTER OUR CHANCES OF
SURVIVAL!

OH, SIR...!
I'M NOT CERTAIN I
CARE FOR THIS AT
ALL!



NEITHER DO I, USE-
LESS! BUT WE AINT GOT A WHOLE
LOTA SAY IN TH'MATTER! EITHER
WE FOLLOW GOLDEN BOY OR TAKE
ON A SQUADRON A'FIGHTERS WITH
WHAT AMOUNTS T'A COUPLE'A
PEA SHOOTERS!

WE'LL
FOLLOW HIM,
BOY BUT THAT
DONT MEAN WE
GOTTA TRUST
'IM!



THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

STILL COLLECTING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

There was a time, not as long ago as it seems to be, when my father and I were arguing about something silly, something silly like what day of the week it happened to be.

"Listen, Joey," he growled this time, "I'm telling you today is Wednesday and don't argue with me."

"You don't understand," I shot back. "It's gotta be Monday. If it's Wednesday like you said, I've already missed the first part of this year's Justice League-Justice Society team-up in Justice League of America. So I know it's Monday."

My father looked befuddled. My logic had obviously escaped him.

"Well," I explained, "It's like this. Comic books come out on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And you know I go to Ruby's (my local dealer) every Tuesday and Thursday morning to buy the new comics. And since I haven't seen the new issue of JLA yet, which is supposed to come out on Tuesday, then it's gotta be Monday."

That's the way it was in the days when I was a comic-book "collector" as well as a comic-book fan and an aspiring comic-book critic and fanzine editor. Like every collector I knew back then—and there weren't too many of us in the mid-1960s—I could tell time based on when Ruby's would get the new comics. I was that fanatic and that dedicated to comic-book collecting. We were all that fanatic. And we did it for love, not for profit.

I finally gave up comic collecting about ten years ago, about the same time I stopped arguing with my father. I stopped arguing because my father and I became friends. I stopped collecting because my collection and I became enemies.

I hated that a collection I had pieced together with nickels and dimes and devotion and smart trades could suddenly be worth real money—more money, in fact, than New York University offered me to attend its journalism school on full scholarship. I hated the fact that collecting wasn't for collectors and fanatic fans like me anymore. Most of

all, I hated what comic-book collecting was becoming—a business for speculators and profiteers and pushy Harvard MBA-types who only saw dollar signs where Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko and Carl Barks had drawn universes.

It's gotten even more bottom-line oriented in the years I've been away from collecting comics. It's formal and profit-motivated and too much like all the other businesses I've covered as a reporter. I've never regretted cashing in my Blackhawks and Blue Beetles. It wasn't worth putting a price on my childhood.

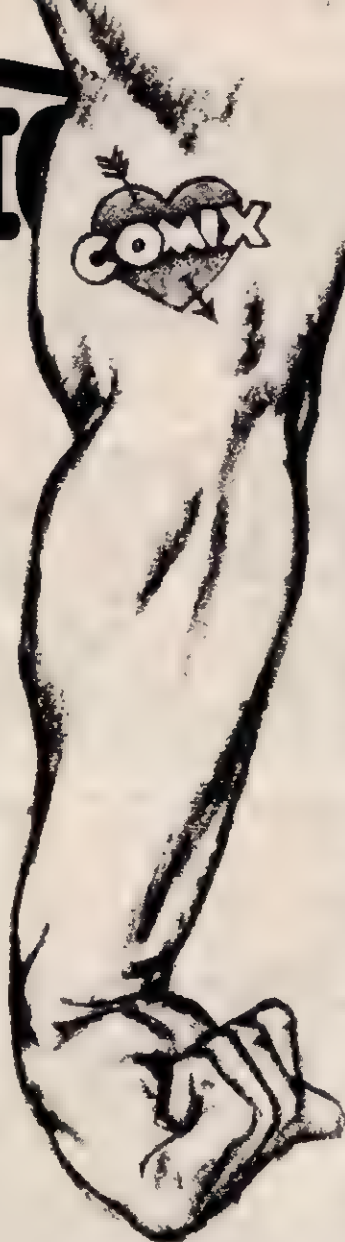
But I got a letter the other day and its simple innocence and healthy fanaticism struck a very familiar chord.

For years," this fellow wrote me, "I have attempted to collect the complete set of Vampirella . . . my favorite publication. I am the proud owner of all issues save Vampi #3. I have written to Warren trying to get a lead on where this issue can be obtained, even to the extent of trying to sneak in a plea through the letters column. Although the letter was published . . . my plea was edited and did not appear. In short, how does one go about finding, locating, purchasing, stealing, black marketing or otherwise completing a collection?"

This fellow even mentioned he has two subscriptions to Vampirella to insure an uninterrupted supply of the magazine.

I was shocked to find even one person in the world of collecting who still cared about comics for comics' sake. I was even more shocked that anyone who wanted to collect wasn't already aware of the shark-infested waters of comic-collecting in the 1970s. So shocked, in fact, that I spent the better part of two days calling around the country finding this fellow a copy of Vampirella #3.

I really hope it makes him happy—and I'm enough of a romantic to think that there are others of you out there who still collect comics just for the joy of collecting. Here's a handy-dandy list of comic-collecting sources in



case you don't know your way around. Enjoy yourselves. It's heartening to know there are at least a handful of you lovable fanatics left.

THE BUYER'S GUIDE is a weekly tabloid stuffed full of advertisements for fanzines, old comics, posters, conventions and other comic paraphernalia. If you can't find what you're looking for in TBG, it probably doesn't exist. A 26-issue subscription is \$8 from The Buyer's Guide, 15800 Rt. 84 North, East Moline, Ill. 61244. One caveat: Don't read any of the editorial material in TBG. It is uniformly dull, incredibly underinformed and unspeakably trite. Use the ads to your best advantage, but TBG's writers aren't worth the newsprint their work is printed on.

THE COMICS JOURNAL is the best source of news and opinions on the current comic-book business and also includes a checklist of upcoming releases. It's as close as the field is likely to get to a serious, mature and regularly-published magazine about the comic arts. Unlike TBG, which is obscenely profitable despite its detestable editorial qual-

ity, TCJ is in a constant battle for financial survival. It deserves your wholehearted support and attention. A year's worth of the monthly magazine is available for \$10.50 from The Comics Journal, 938 Stillwater Road, Stamford, Ct. 06902.

THE COMIC-BOOK PRICE GUIDE is the unquestioned bible of comic-book prices. Written and published annually for the last decade by Bob Overstreet, the 700-page softcover contains pricing and other invaluable information on almost every American comic book ever produced. The 1979 edition, including 120 pages of comic-oriented advertising, is available for \$8.95 from Overstreet at 780 Hunt Cliff Drive NW, Cleveland, Tenn. 37311.

BUD PLANT is easily the most reliable dealer in the comic industry. While he does not sell comic books, his huge inventory includes most underground comix, fanzines, books about comics, posters, paperbacks and a large selection of foreign items. The catalog is 50 cents and available from Bud Plant, P.O. Box 1888, Grass Valley, Ca. 95945.

HUGH O'KENNON is one of the most respected and reliable sources of comic books published before 1965. His catalog is 50 cents and it specializes in "golden age" material from the 1940s. O'Kennon's address is 2204 Haviland Drive, Richmond, Va. 23229.

CAMELOT is an often-recommended source for more recent comics and also runs a new-issue subscription service. A self-addressed, stamped envelope to Camelot manager Willie Patterson at 912 Clay, Houston, Texas 77062 will get you more detailed information.

In compiling this list, I happened to talk to the dealer who bought my collection ten years ago for the then-outrageously high price of \$12,500. Today, he said, the same books would be worth more than \$100,000.


It's still not worth putting a price on my childhood, though.

The Trespasser: DUSK

THOUGH THEY WERE TOO **GENTEEL** TO SHOUT, THEIR RAGING MURMURS REVEALED THE **DISINTEGRATION** BETWEEN REBECCA AND HARRIS COPE. THE DISINTEGRATION OF THEIR **MARRIAGE**. THE DISINTEGRATION OF THEIR **SANITY**.

THEY WERE **GLADIATORS** IN AN ILLUSORY ARENA OF RECREATED SOUTHERN-ARISTOCRACY.

AT HARRIS COPE'S ORDER, RURIK AND RUSH PERFORMED THEIR **SECURITY DUTIES** LIKE MODERN DAY CENTURIONS, CARTING ME OFF TO SOME DANK **DUNGEON** BELOW. THEIR LIVES SEEMED TO HAVE NO MORE **DEPTH** THAN THE REFLECTIVE SURFACE OF THEIR ONE-WAY GLASSES.



OH, SWEETHEART, DEAR... DR. CAVANAUGH IS OUR **GUEST** AT MY INVITATION. SURELY, DARLING, WE MUST SHOW HIM THE RENOWNED **COPE HOSPITALITY**.

SWEETHEART?

LOOK AT ME, REBECCA! DO YOU SEE A **HANDSOME MAN**... A **LOVER**?

WHAT YOU SEE WHEN YOUR EYES ARE **OPEN**, REBECCA, IS A MAN DONE IN BY HIS **ENEMIES**... A MAN NO LONGER A **MAN**!

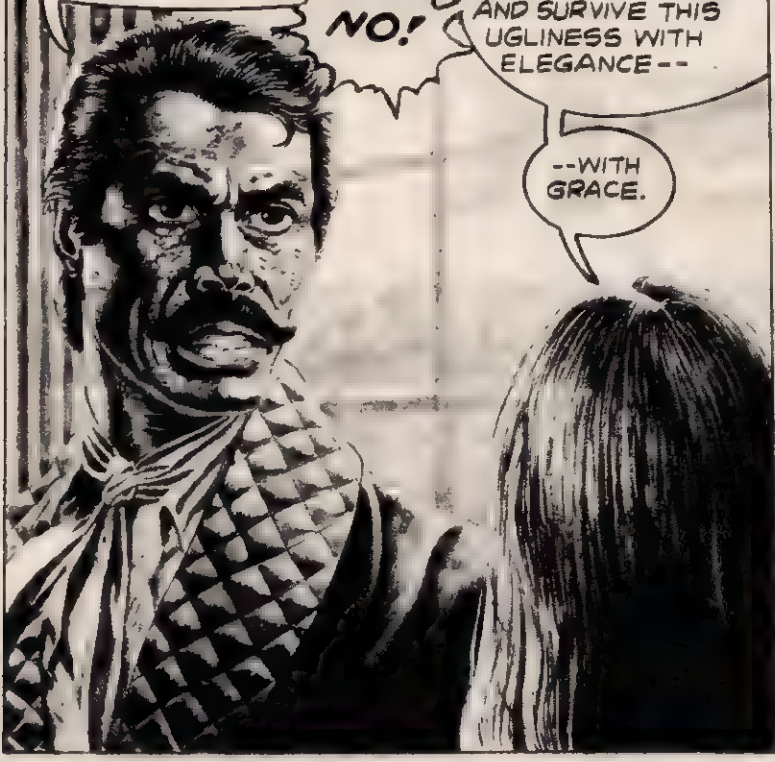
BUT WE WILL HAVE OUR **VENGEANCE**! WE WILL SAVE OUR **HOUSE** FROM THIS **KELSEY**! AND FROM ALL THE **FOES** HE BRINGS ONTO OUR **LAND**!

YOU'RE NOT LIKE OUR SON, REBECCA...NOT AN UNAWARE CHILD! STOP ACTING LIKE ONE!

NO!

YOU OPEN YOUR EYES, HARRIS! YES, I TRY TO SEE THE BEST IN THE WORST... AND SURVIVE THIS UGLINESS WITH ELEGANCE--

--WITH GRACE.



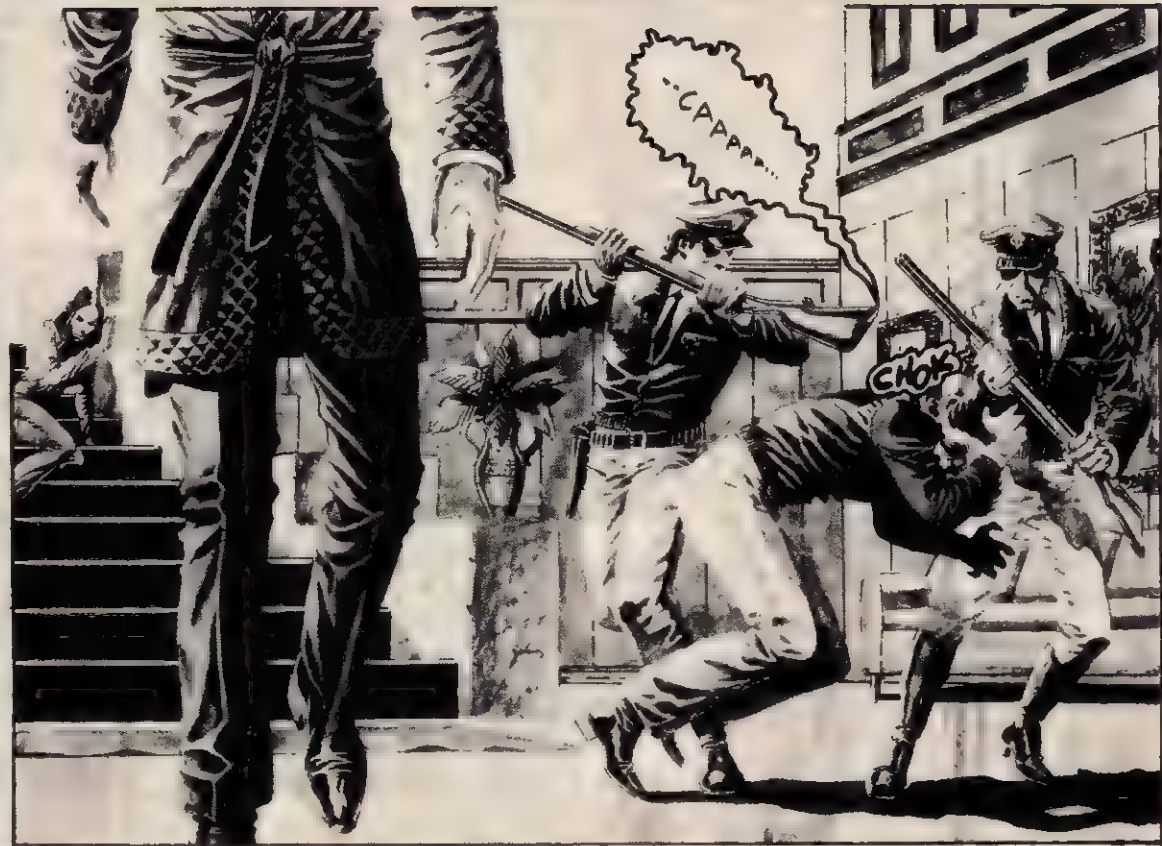
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS BLIND! OUT OF SHAME YOU HIDE OUR SON... AFRAID TO LOOK ON HIS DEFORMITY.

YOU REFUSE TO SEE WE ARE ALL DYING. I AM DYING. INSIDE, I FEEL IT. SOMETHING ALIEN...DESTRUCTIVE...IS KILLING ME, AT LEAST I HAVE LOOKED AT DEATH...AND FACED IT!

HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A CHILD!



REBEC--



I AWOKE IN THE WINE CELLAR TO GHOST IMAGES, PAIN, AND FEAR--



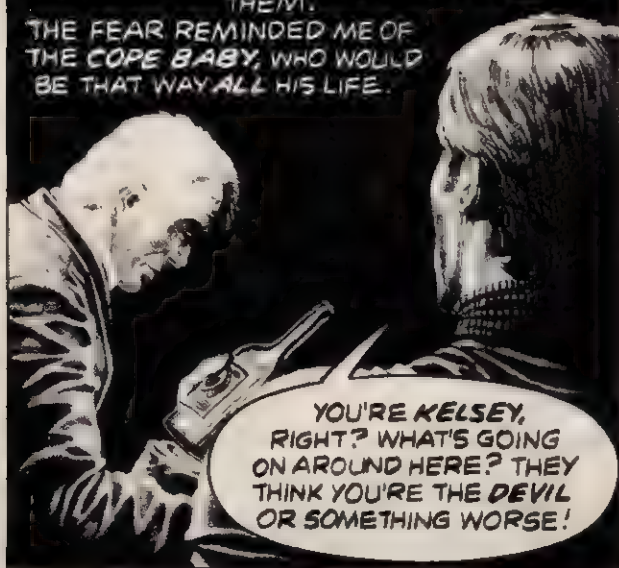
--THE FEAR OF WHAT BLOWS TO THE HEAD CAN DO TO A MAN WHEN IT DOESN'T HAPPEN IN MASS ENTERTAINMENTS--



NOW I KNOW WHY DOCTOR'S DON'T MAKE HOUSECALLS ANYMORE.

MY VOICE WAS COMFORTINGLY INTELLIGIBLE. I'D BEEN AFRAID MY MOTOR NERVES HAD BEEN DAMAGED, THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO THINK THE WORDS BUT NOT SPEAK THEM.

THE FEAR REMINDED ME OF THE COPE BABY, WHO WOULD BE THAT WAY ALL HIS LIFE.



YOU'RE KELSEY, RIGHT? WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE? THEY THINK YOU'RE THE DEVIL OR SOMETHING WORSE!

WE'RE IN THE RUINS, SON. TELL ME, IS IT DUSK YET? I CAN'T SEE THE LIGHT ANYMORE.

YOU'RE AS CRAZY IN THE HEAD AS THE REST OF THEM.

CRAZY? ME? DID YOU SEE THEM DYING, SON? SCARED OF DYING. KNOWING THEY'RE DYING!

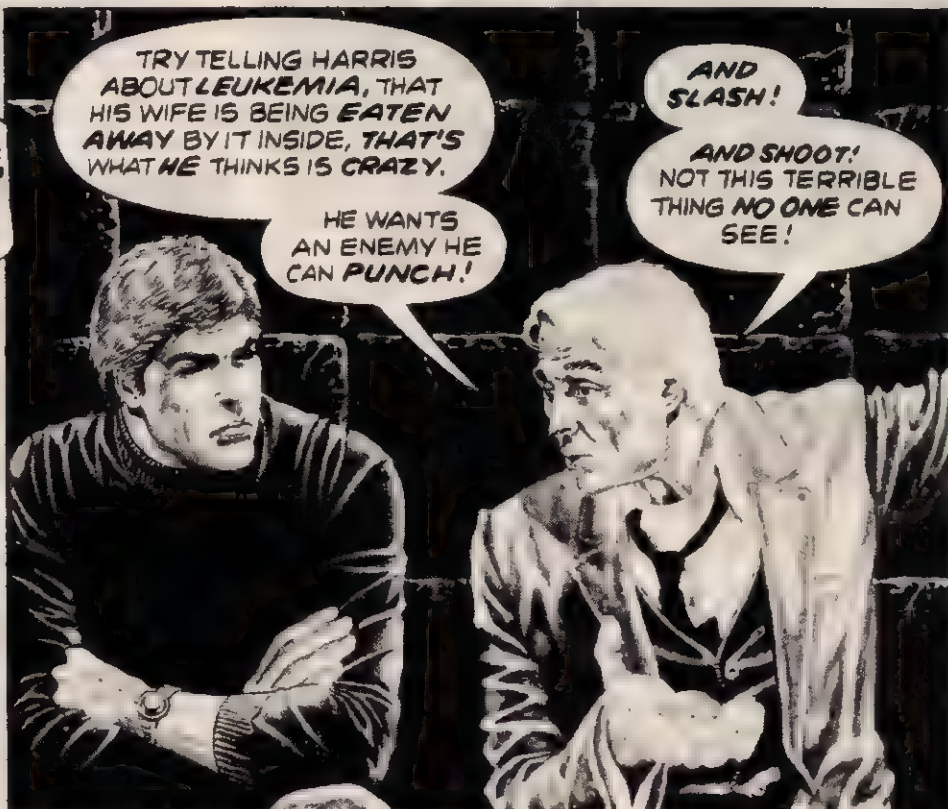


TRY TELLING HARRIS ABOUT LEUKEMIA, THAT HIS WIFE IS BEING EATEN AWAY BY IT INSIDE, THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS IS CRAZY.

HE WANTS AN ENEMY HE CAN PUNCH!

AND SLASH!

AND SHOOT! NOT THIS TERRIBLE THING NO ONE CAN SEE!



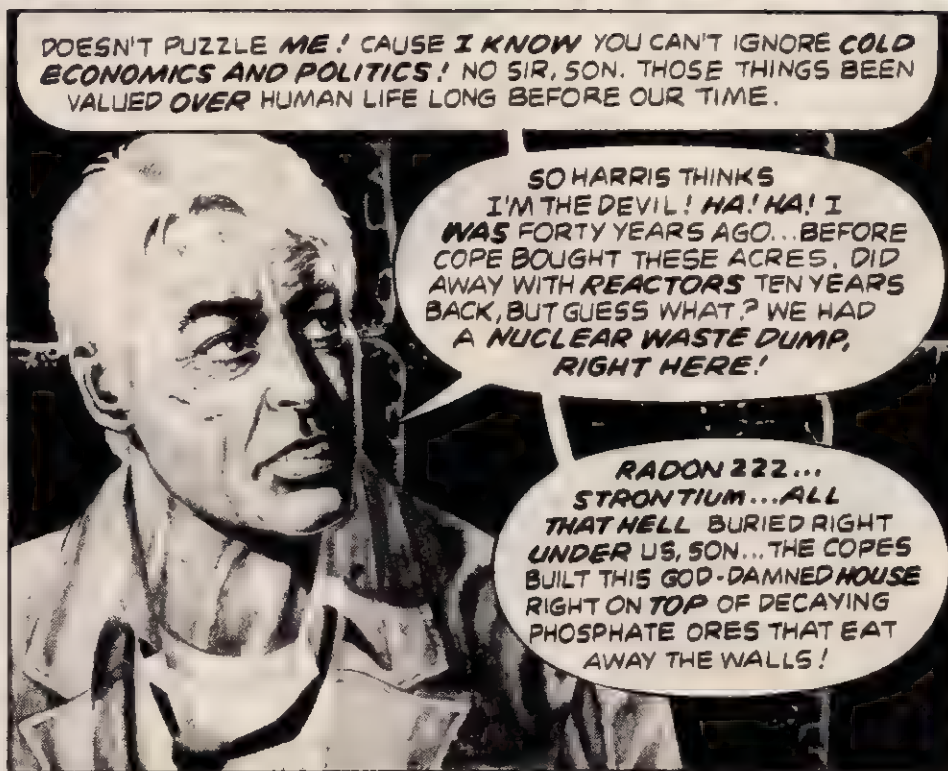
IT'S TRUE, THEY'RE ALL ILL, BUT WHAT CAUSED IT? THAT'S WHAT PUZZLES ME.



DOESN'T PUZZLE ME! CAUSE I KNOW YOU CAN'T IGNORE COLD ECONOMICS AND POLITICS! NO SIR, SON. THOSE THINGS BEEN VALUED OVER HUMAN LIFE LONG BEFORE OUR TIME.

SO HARRIS THINKS I'M THE DEVIL! HA! HA! I WAS FORTY YEARS AGO... BEFORE COPE BOUGHT THESE ACRES. DID AWAY WITH REACTORS TEN YEARS BACK, BUT GUESS WHAT? WE HAD A NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP, RIGHT HERE!

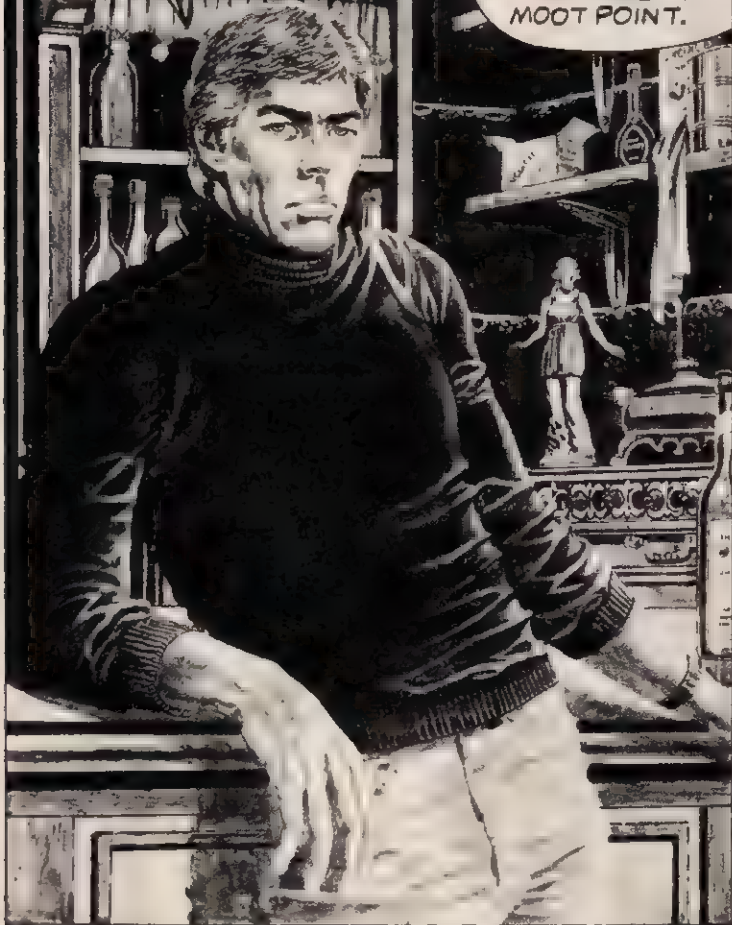
RADON 222... STRONTIUM... ALL THAT HELL BURIED RIGHT UNDER US, SON... THE COPE'S BUILT THIS GOD-DAMNED HOUSE RIGHT ON TOP OF DECAYING PHOSPHATE ORES THAT EAT AWAY THE WALLS!



PHOSPHATE ORES?
YEAH, I REMEMBER.
YEARS BACK A CITIZEN'S
GROUP GOT ON THE
A.M.A.'S BACK
ABOUT 'EM...

...SAID WE PLAYED IT
SAFE, IGNORED REAL
HEALTH HAZARDS AND
WENT AFTER **SAFE**
TARGETS LIKE TV
VIOLENCE.

WHEN
THE PLANTS
WERE CLOSED,
IT BECAME A
MOOT POINT.

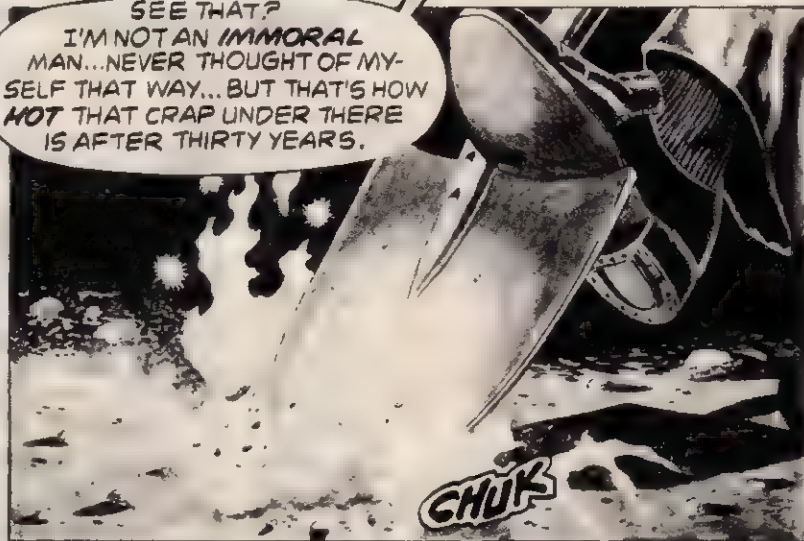


I USED TO
TAKE **PRIDE** IN MY WORK.
I WAS LIKE MOST OF THE
OTHERS BEFORE IT WENT **BAD**
AND ACRES OF LAND WERE
QUARANTINED, LIVESTOCK
KILLED AND CITIZENS SUED
THE GOVERNMENT WHILE THEY
DIED OF CANCER.

NO ONE EVER WANTS
TO BE HELD **ACCOUNTABLE**
IN GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY
DISASTERS. REMEMBER
THAT, SON... C.Y. A...
COVER YOUR ASS!

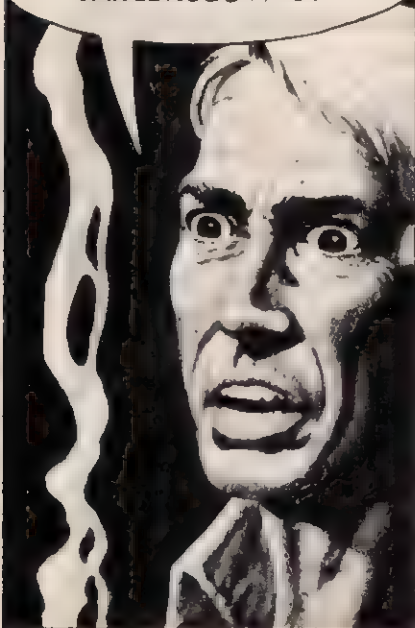
LET ME GIVE
YOU A LITTLE **DEMON-**
STRATION.

SEE THAT?
I'M NOT AN **IMMORAL**
MAN... NEVER THOUGHT OF MY-
SELF THAT WAY... BUT THAT'S HOW
HOT THAT CRAP UNDER THERE
IS AFTER THIRTY YEARS.



RECENTLY, I STARTED
WONDERING WHAT THIS
PLACE WOULD BE LIKE. I
CAME BACK AND FOUND
OUT--

I TOLD THE COPS I HAD
TO **DESTROY** IT BEFORE IT
KILLED THEM! BUT PEOPLE
CAN'T **SEE** THIS ENEMY... OR
TASTE IT... OR **TOUCH** IT...
AND THEY CAN'T BELIEVE HOW
DANGEROUS IT IS.



SON, WE GOT 30 TO
40 THOUSAND OF
THESE **RUINS** ACROSS
THE COUNTRY. AND
YOU THINK I'M
CRAZY 'CAUSE I
ASK IF IT'S
DUSK YET.

WAIT!
THERE'S
SOMEONE
AT...
REBECCA!

WARD... MR.
KELSEY... COME
QUICKLY... I'LL
LEAD YOU OUT
OF HERE.



THEY'LL **KILL** YOU IF I DON'T, AND I
DON'T WANT TO DIE WITH THAT ON
MY **CONSCIENCE**.

WE RAN OUT INTO
KELSEY'S DUSK.
IT WAS ORANGE-
BROWN AND **FRIGHT-**
ENING; AND I WAS
AFRAID TO BREATHE
THE **AIR**.

THE REST
IS **HARD**
ENOUGH TO
BEAR WITHOUT
THAT.



I KNEW AT THAT MOMENT
THAT IT WAS NO LONGER
JUST **KELSEY'S DUSK**; IT
WAS **EVERYONE'S!**

THE TREES WITHIN THE **SWAMP-LAND** SHELTERED US, BUT I KNEW WE HAD **NOT... COULD NOT... ESCAPE.**

EVEN OUT HERE, LOOK AT IT, **PHOSPHORESCENT NIGHT-WATER!** WHEN WE RAN OUT'VE STORAGE SPACE WE CHUCKED BARRELS OF **CESIUM-137** INTO THE MARSH.

WHAT THE HELL DID WE THINK WE WERE **DOING?**

THOUSANDS OF **SALT MARSH MOSQUITOS** FILLED THE AIR WITH MENACE, THEY WERE **SEEKING** BLOOD, THEY DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN WHETHER IT WAS **HEALTHY BLOOD!**

I'LL **LEAVE** YOU HERE.

YOU **CAN'T** GO BACK THERE!

IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I **CAN** GO BACK TO. I ALWAYS FELT THAT **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS** WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER UNDERSTOOD ME... MY **TIME... MY PLACE.**

"I'VE ALWAYS **DEPENDED** ON THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS," **BLANCHE DUBOIS** SAID THAT. I **THANK** YOU, WARD, FOR YOUR **KINDNESS** TO ME... MY FAMILY.

BUT I DIDN'T **DO** ANYTHING

YOU WOULD HAVE **TRIED...** IF YOU'D BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE. LET ME **LEAVE** YOU, **BE-LIEVING** THAT!

BUT, REBECCA, I'M NOT THAT **NICE A--**

I'LL **BELIEVE** YOU **ARE.**

ABOVE THE MOSQUITOS, AIR-RAID BUZZING, AN **ALLIGATOR** CROAKED FROM THE WATER, THEN I HEARD SOMETHING **FAR MORE SINISTER!**

CLCHET

YOU B' **LIEVE** WHAT YOU **WANT**, MRS. COPE, LONG AS Y'ALL HEAD BACK T' THE HOUSE. 'FRAID I'M GOIN' TA HAFTA **TELL** YOUR HUSBAND 'BOUT THIS.

WHICH OF THE **MENTALLY DEFICIENT TWINS** ARE YOU? FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN EITHER OF YOU WITH YOUR GLASSES **OFF.** IT'S NO IMPROVEMENT.

COOL IT, CAVANAUGH. IT'S STUPID TO ANTAGONIZE A MAN WHO'S AIMING A **PUMP-ACTION SHOTGUN** AT YOU.

FIRST **SENSIBLE** THING YOU EVER SAID, KELSEY. TELL ME, DOC, YOU CALLIN' MY BROTHER, **RUSH, IGN'RANT?**

LISTEN TO ME, NOW... LISTEN CLOSE. WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU GOT **PRIME** IN YOUR HEAD? **PROTECT-ING** HARRIS, RIGHT?

WELL, IN THE **END**, YOU 'AN **RUSH**'LL END UP **KILL-ING** HIM. NOT HIS WIFE, NOT THIS DOCTOR..

...NOT EVEN **ME!**

HA! HA!

YOU GOTTA
BE **KIDDIN'**, KELSEY!
YOU REALLY TRYIN'
TO TAKE ME **ON!**

MAYBE I'LL JUST **FEED** YOU
TO THE '**GATORS**... GET
THIS FOOLISHNESS DONE
AN' OVER WITH!

'GATORS' THEY'RE
THE MOST **LIED**
ABOUT CREATURES
ALIVE. AIN'T NEAR-
LY AS **FEARSOME**
AS MOST FOLKS
MAKE OUT.

WHY YOU CAN HOLD A BIG 'UN'S
MOUTH SHUT WITH YOUR **HANDS**,
IF YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT!
ME 'N MY BROTHER, THE **IGN'-**
RANT ONE, WE **DONE** IT
PLENTY-A TIMES!

THEY'S A **SLEW-A**
'GATORS' NEATH THIS
BRIDGE, AND A **BLOODIED**
OLD COOT LIKE YOU, THEY
OUGHTTA TAKE SOME
INTREST IN!

AT THAT
POINT I
COMMITTED
THE MOST
IMPULSIVE
ACT OF MY
LIFE...

...I TRIED TO TAKE THE
SHOTGUN AWAY FROM HIM!

I'D LIKE TO THINK I DID IT TO
SAVE KELSEY, BUT MORE LIKE-
LY IT WAS BECAUSE I KNEW
HE'D TURN THAT WEAPON
ON REBECCA AND ME AFTER
HE'D **FINISHED**. THE SUS-
PENSION BRIDGE SWAYED,
AND THE WORLD TURNED
UPSIDE DOWN!

LAST TIME, DOC! LAST TIME YOU
GO 'BOUT MESSIN' ROUND THESE
PARTS, CALLIN' FOLKS KIN **NAMES!**

NEITHER DID THE FACT THAT IT WAS A **HUMAN**
BEING HE WAS SIGHTING DOWN.


BLAM!

KA-

=GRUSK!

THE BLAST
COULD AS
EASILY HAVE
RIPPED **HUMAN-**
BONE AND
FLESH!


THE DUSK-SKY **DANCED** BEYOND HIS HEAD, IN TIME
WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE BRIDGE; BUT THE
ROCKING DIDN'T **PHASE** HIM.



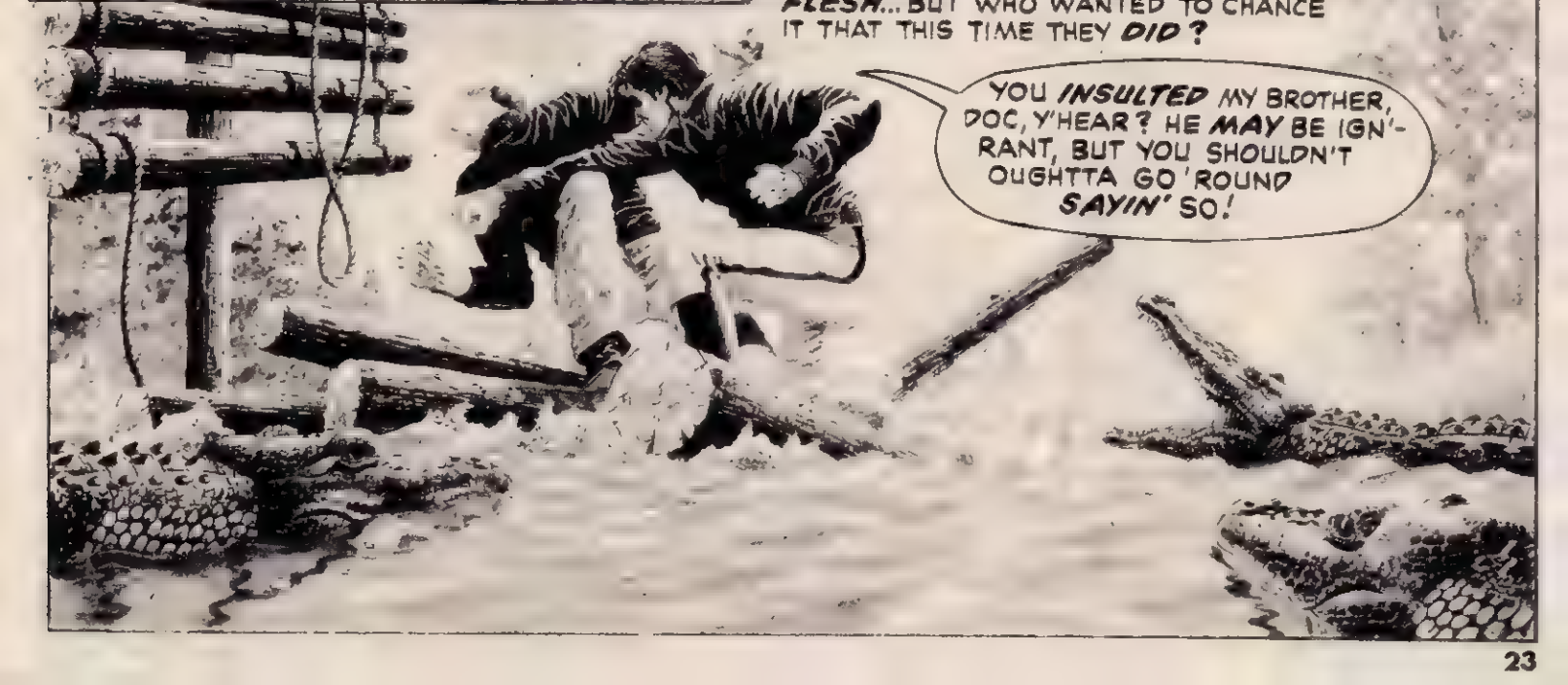
THE BEAM
SPLINTERED,
AND THE SUP-
PORTING ROPES
WHIPPED THE
AIR LIKE
HISSING
SERPENTS!

I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO
SCREAMED AS THE WHOLE
STRUCTURE GAVE WAY. I PRAY-
ED TO GOD, INTRA-COASTAL
MEDICINE, THE GOVERNMENT,
ANYBODY OR THING I THOUGHT
MIGHT BE ABLE TO *SAVE* ME.

AS I HIT THE SWAMP WATER AND SCRAMBLED
AMONG THE VIOLENTLY CRASHING LOGS, THE
GATORS SLITHERED TOWARD THE WATER'S EDGE.



I HEARD TELL THAT ALLIGATORS
NORMALLY *DIDN'T* CRAVE *HUMAN*
FLESH... BUT WHO WANTED TO CHANCE
IT THAT THIS TIME THEY *DID*?

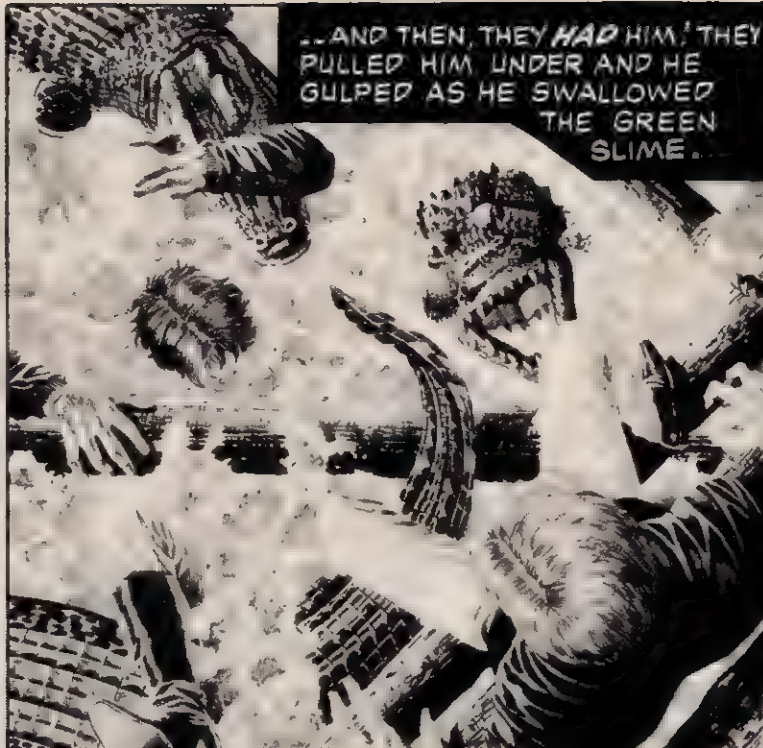


YOU *INSULTED* MY BROTHER,
DOC, Y'HEAR? HE *MAY* BE IGN'-
RANT, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T
OUGHTTA GO 'ROUND
SAYIN' SO!

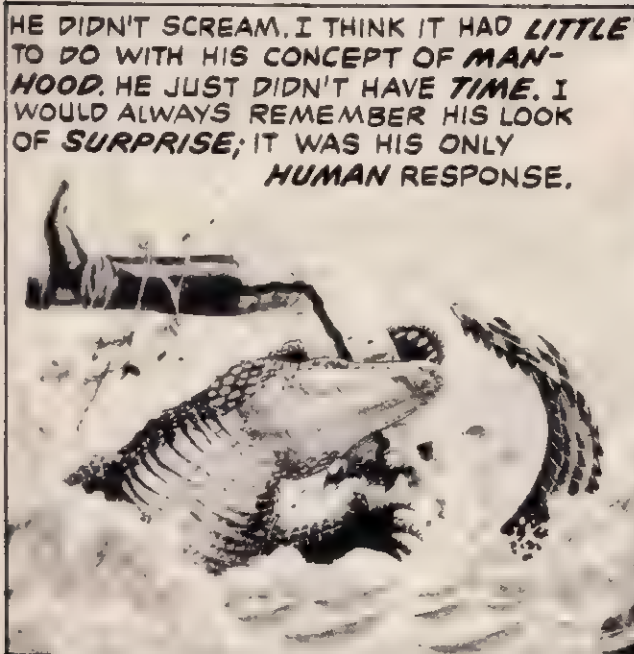
I TASTED BLOOD. I WANTED TO BEG HIM THROUGH **BLOODED TEETH** NOT TO HIT ME AGAIN--



...AND THEN, THEY **HAD HIM!** THEY PULLED HIM UNDER AND HE GULPED AS HE SWALLOWED THE GREEN SLIME...



HE DIDN'T SCREAM. I THINK IT HAD **LITTLE** TO DO WITH HIS CONCEPT OF **MANHOOD**. HE JUST DIDN'T HAVE **TIME**. I WOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER HIS LOOK OF **SURPRISE**; IT WAS HIS ONLY **HUMAN RESPONSE**.



HIS CAP FLOATED AUTHORITATIVELY OVER THE **CARNAGE!**



ALLIGATORS DON'T ACT LIKE THAT.

MAYBE. KELSEY'S STORY ABOUT THE **WASTE PRODUCTS** AND ALL... YOU THINK THAT COULD'VE **ALTERED** THEM?

I WANTED ONLY TO MAKE THE WORLD A **BEAUTIFUL** PLACE FOR HARRIS AND ME. AM I **SILLY?** TO STILL WANT THE WORLD TO BE BEAUTIFUL?

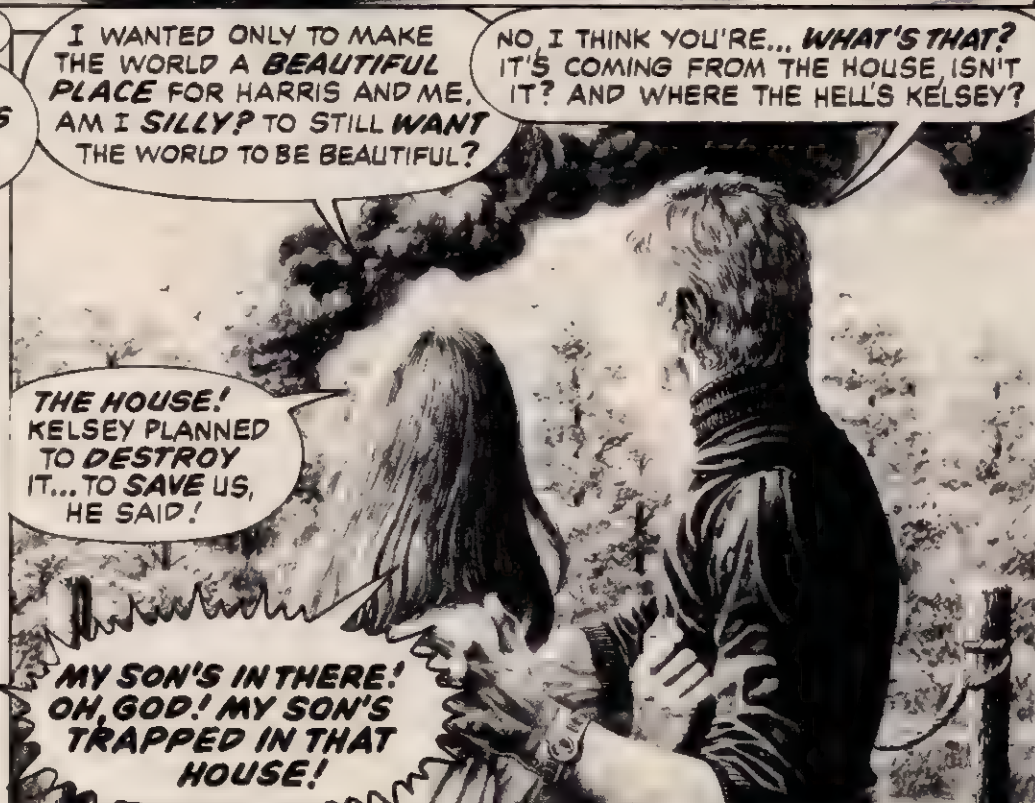
NO I THINK YOU'RE... **WHAT'S THAT?** IT'S COMING FROM THE HOUSE, ISN'T IT? AND WHERE THE HELL'S KELSEY?



I-I DON'T KNOW. **WHY** MUST I ALWAYS SEE SUCH **HORRIBLE** THINGS ... MY HUSBAND'S **NATE!** MY CHILD'S **DEFORMITY!** THIS **DEATH!**

THE **HOUSE!** KELSEY PLANNED TO **DESTROY** IT... TO **SAVE** US, HE SAID!

MY SON'S **IN THERE!** OH, **GOD!** MY SON'S **TRAPPED** IN THAT **HOUSE!**



I TOLD HIM HE WAS **CRAZY**, LOOKING FOR SOME FANTASY **LOST CITY** OUT HERE IN THE **DEVIL'S CRUCIBLE**. BUT **RAGAN** JUST KEPT WAVING MORE MONEY AT ME, AND **GOD** KNOWS HE HAD **MONEY** TO WAVE. HE COULD BUY THE **BEST** OF EVERYTHING, LIKE **AUSSA**.

WE LEFT NEXT MORNING OUT OF **DESERT END**, WITH FIVE PACKCAMELS AND THEIR DRIVERS... ALL OF WHOM **DESERTED** BY THE SECOND WEEK.

BUT **RAGAN** WOULDN'T **HEAR** OF TURNING BACK. AND THERE WAS **AUSSA**...WE WENT ON.

KHARI?
WHAT DO
YOU SEE?

SAND, AUSSA.
NOTHING
BUT SAND.

CITY OF SHADOWS

THAT'S ALL THAT'S OUT THERE, RAGAN. THAT'S ALL THAT'LL EVER BE OUT THERE!

SAND? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SAND?

DAMMIT, I'M PAYING YOU GOOD MONEY...

...TO RUN AROUND IN CIRCLES CHASING SHADOW CITIES THAT DON'T EVEN...

LISTEN! DON'T YOU HEAR IT?

I HEARD IT THEN A LOW MOAN. IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE WIND, BUT I KNEW IT WASN'T.

FENNECS!

THE DRAGONS OF THE DEVIL'S CRUCIBLE. THEY ATTACK IN PACKS AND THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IS TO SHOOT THEM ALL. I WAS GLAD TO SEE AUSSA WAS DOING A GOOD JOB, BECAUSE RAGAN WAS NO HELP AT ALL.

BLAM BLAM

HELP! SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!

BLAMM

KHARI! BEHIND YOU!

MANY THANKS, PRETTY LADY.

BLAM

THEN MY AMMO WAS GONE AND IT WAS HAND TO FANG. RAGAN'S RIFLE HADN'T BEEN FIRED, BUT HE WAS TOO BUSY TRYING TO HIDE TO THINK OF IT.

GROWL

THE FENNEC WAS STRONGER THAN I'D EXPECTED. I HOPED AUSSA COULD SURVIVE ALONE.

BLAM

CHOKE

I FELT LIKE A FOOL BEING HERE AT ALL.

THEN I HEARD A SHOT AND THE FENNEC BECAME A DEAD WEIGHT ON TOP OF ME.

I LOOKED UP AND AUSSA WAS STANDING THERE WITH RAGAN'S RIFLE IN HER ARMS, LOOKING LIKE A LITTLE GIRL WITH A NEW DOLL.

THAT WAS THE LAST OF THEM. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, YOU KNOW.

HEY, BOY!

YOU STAY AWAY FROM MY WIFE! SHE NEEDS A REAL MAN, NOT A HIRED PUNK LIKE YOU.

OH, RAGAN, DON'T BE TIRESOME. KHARI DIDN'T MEAN ANY OFFENCE.

WE PITCHED CAMP ABOUT A MILE AWAY.

JUST WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND OUT HERE MR. RAGAN?

A CITY...

THE CITY OF DREAMS.

ALL WAITING FOR THE FIRST PERSON WHO FINDS IT!

EVERYBODY THINKS IT'S A MYTH... LIKE ATLANTIS... BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S REAL, AND IT'S HERE... THE CAPITAL AN ANCIENT SUPER-CIVILIZATION!

AND I INTEND TO BE THAT PERSON!

I STILL THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY. LOOKING OUT OVER THE DESERT AFTER RAGAN HAD GONE TO SLEEP. ALL I SAW WAS SAND... NO CITY... JUST THE DREAMS OF A RICH FOOL.

KHARI?

SHE TOLD ME RAGAN WOULDN'T WAKE UP TILL MORNING; SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE HATED HIM ... THAT SHE LOVED ME ... BUT ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THAT SHE WAS HERE, NOW.

AUSSA?

OH MY GOD! KHARI!

I KNEW IT HAD TO BE TOO GOOD TO LAST.

IN THE *CRUCIBLE* YOU CAN'T RELAX EVEN FOR A *MOMENT*. IF YOU DO, YOU'RE *DEAD*.



I'D HEARD TALES ABOUT GIANT *BATS* OUT HERE.



BUT THEN, I'D NEVER EXPECTED TO BE HERE AT ALL.

I'VE TRIPPED!
AIIIE!
NOOOO!

I HOPED THEY WERE AFRAID OF FIRE.



SKREEE

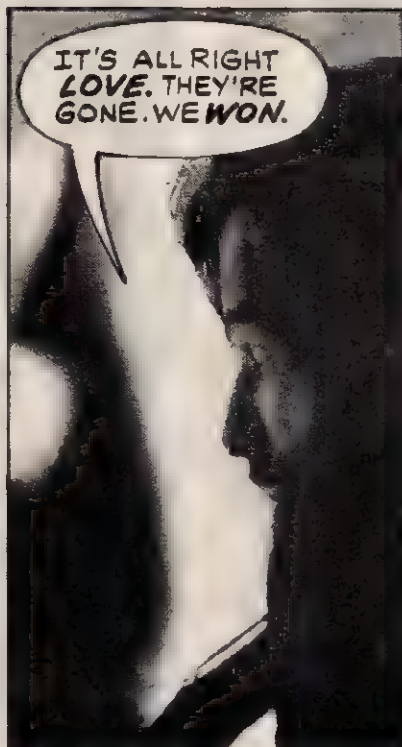
WHOOSH



THEY BACKED OFF THEN, TRYING TO DECIDE IF WE WERE WORTH THE TROUBLE.



IT'S ALL RIGHT LOVE. THEY'RE GONE. WE WON.



MRZZZ?
AW, HONEY,
NOT TONI...
ZZZ...



RAGAN WAS QUIET THAT DAY...
A WELCOME CHANGE. I DIDN'T
PAY MUCH ATTENTION.

ooo!

I SHOULD HAVE.

YOU
ALL RIGHT,
LOVE?

THIS
THIS DAMNED
SAND...

GODDAMN IT,
PUNK...

I TOLD YOU
TO KEEP YOUR
PAWS OF MY
WOMAN!

I HAD TO GET THAT *RIFLE* AWAY
FROM HIM BEFORE HE THOUGHT
OF *SHOOTING* IT.

GUH!

FORTUNATELY, THAT
WASN'T *HARD*.

HE DROPPED THE RIFLE, BUT
HE KEPT ON COMING. I
WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE
TAKEN MY *TIME* POUND-
ING HIM INTO THE SAND
BUT I HAD TO *HURRY*...

'GET YOU...PUNK.
TEACH YOU...'MESS
WI' MAN'S *WOMAN*...

...FOR I NOTICED THEN THAT
THE *DEVIL'S CRUCIBLE*
HAD PREPARED ANOTHER
NASTY SURPRISE.

WHOP

HE CRUMPLED LIKE A SACK
OF CEMENT, AND THEN I RAN
TOWARD *AUSSA* AND AWAY
FROM THE *BLACK CLOUD* ON
THE *HORIZON*.

COME ON,
WE'VE GOT TO
GET OUT
OF HERE!

WHAT?

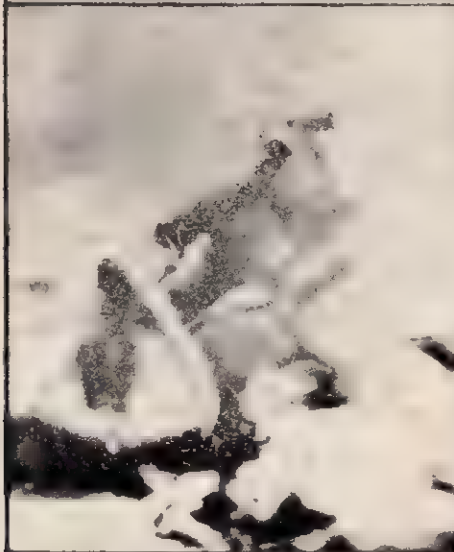
MOVE,
WOMAN!

SHE DIDN'T ARGUE, I WOULD HAVE *BLESSED* HER
FOR THAT IF I'D HAD BREATH TO *SPARE*. THAT
BLACK CLOUD WAS A *SANDSTORM*, A DESERT
CYCLONE CARRYING ENOUGH SAND TO SCOUR THE
FLESH FROM A MAN'S BONES IN *MOMENTS*.

THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD SAVE *RAGAN*
...WE WERE HARD PRESSED TO SAVE *OURSELVES*.

I GRABBED ONE OF THE SLEEPING BAGS AND WE **RAN** LIKE HELL. THE ROCKS I'D SEEN OFF TO THE NORTH-WEST WERE OUR ONLY **HOPE**.

WE HUDDLED UNDER THE BAG IN THE LEE SIDE OF THE BIGGEST SLAB AND **PRAYED**.



THE STORM **BLEW** ALL DAY. I SPENT THE TIME WONDERING HOW WE'D GET OUT OF THE DESERT ALIVE WITH **ALL** OUR GEAR **GONE**.



TOWARD EVENING THE WIND DROPPED. IT DIDN'T TAKE TOO LONG TO **D/S** OUT.

OH, KHARI,
LOOK!
WHAT IS IT?



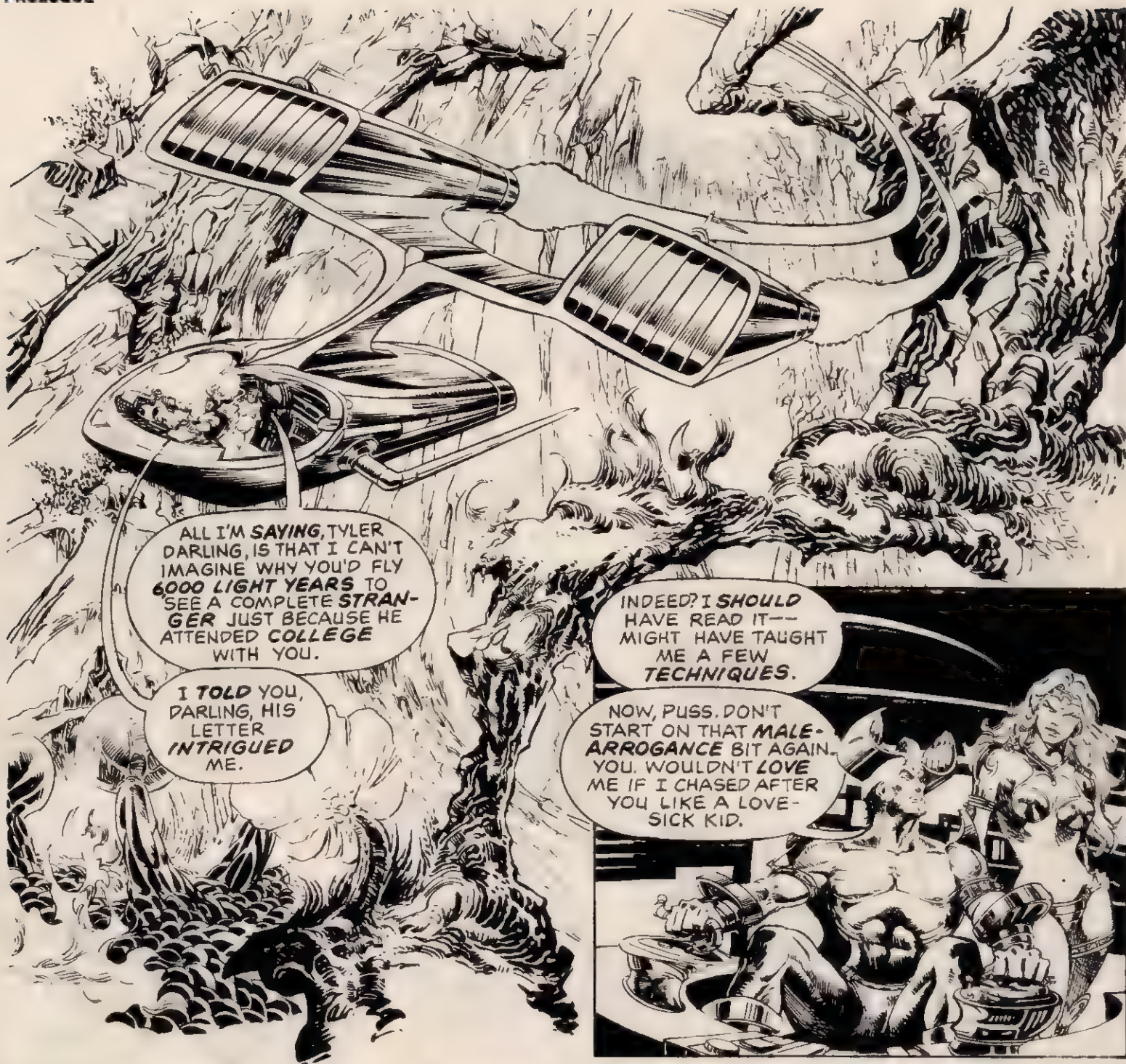
THERE IT WAS, THE **CITY OF DREAMS**... THE SHADOW I'D BEEN CHASING... **RAGAN'S OBSESSION**.

WITHOUT THE **STORM** WE'D NEVER HAVE FOUND IT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN LYING HERE **BURIED** FOR CENTURIES, FORGOTTEN BY EVERYONE BUT **HISTORIANS**.



I ALMOST WISHED RAGAN WAS **HERE** TO SEE IT. TO KNOW HE WAS **RIGHT**... THAT HIS LOST CITY WAS OUT HERE.

THE CITY OF DREAMS...
MANHATTAN!

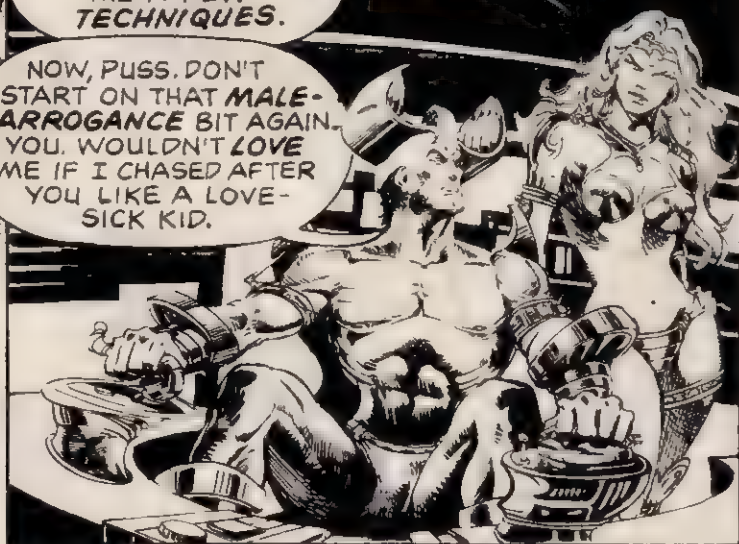


ALL I'M SAYING, TYLER DARLING, IS THAT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY YOU'D FLY 6000 LIGHT YEARS TO SEE A COMPLETE STRANGER JUST BECAUSE HE ATTENDED COLLEGE WITH YOU.

I TOLD YOU, DARLING, HIS LETTER INTRIGUED ME.

INDEED? I SHOULD HAVE READ IT—MIGHT HAVE TAUGHT ME A FEW TECHNIQUES.

NOW, PUSS. DON'T START ON THAT MALE-ARROGANCE BIT AGAIN. YOU WOULDN'T LOVE ME IF I CHASED AFTER YOU LIKE A LOVE-SICK KID.



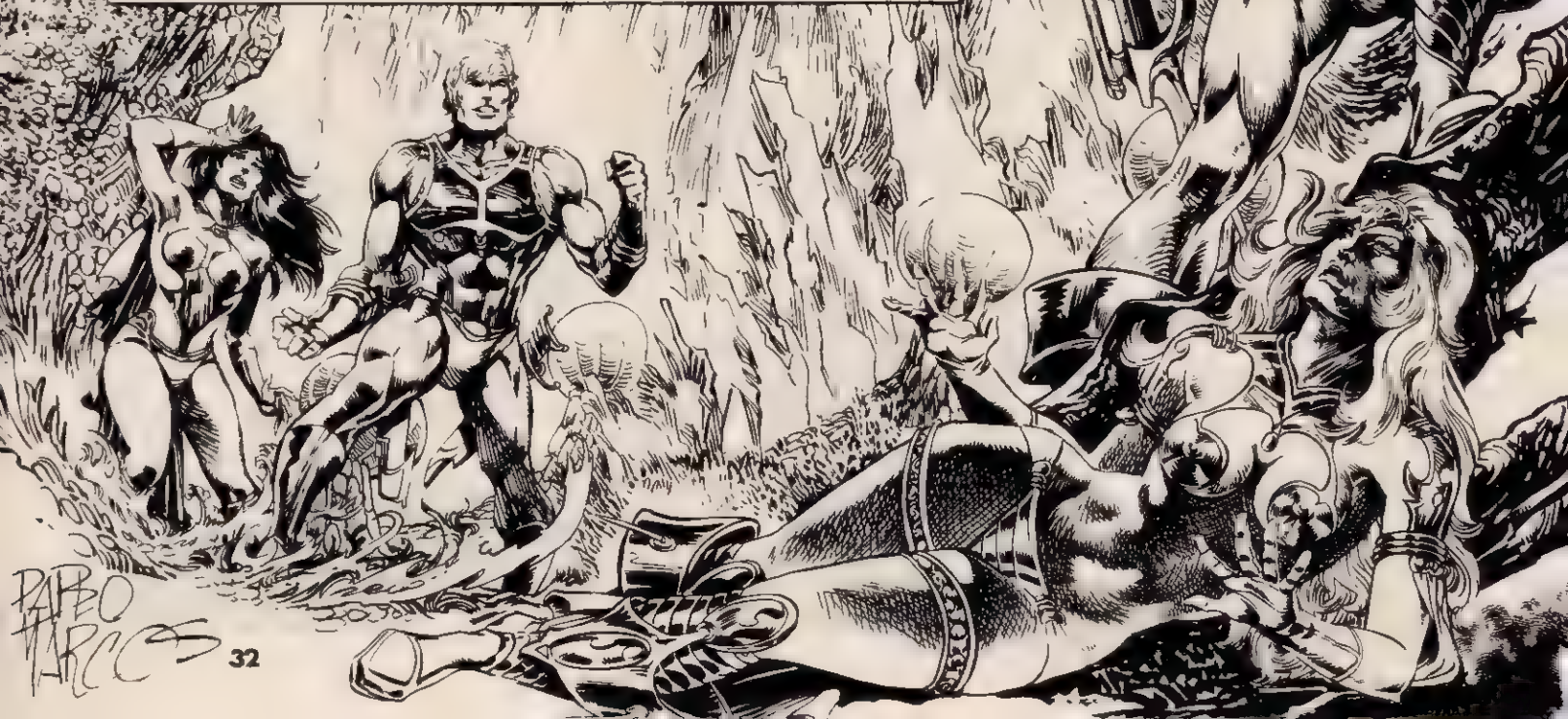
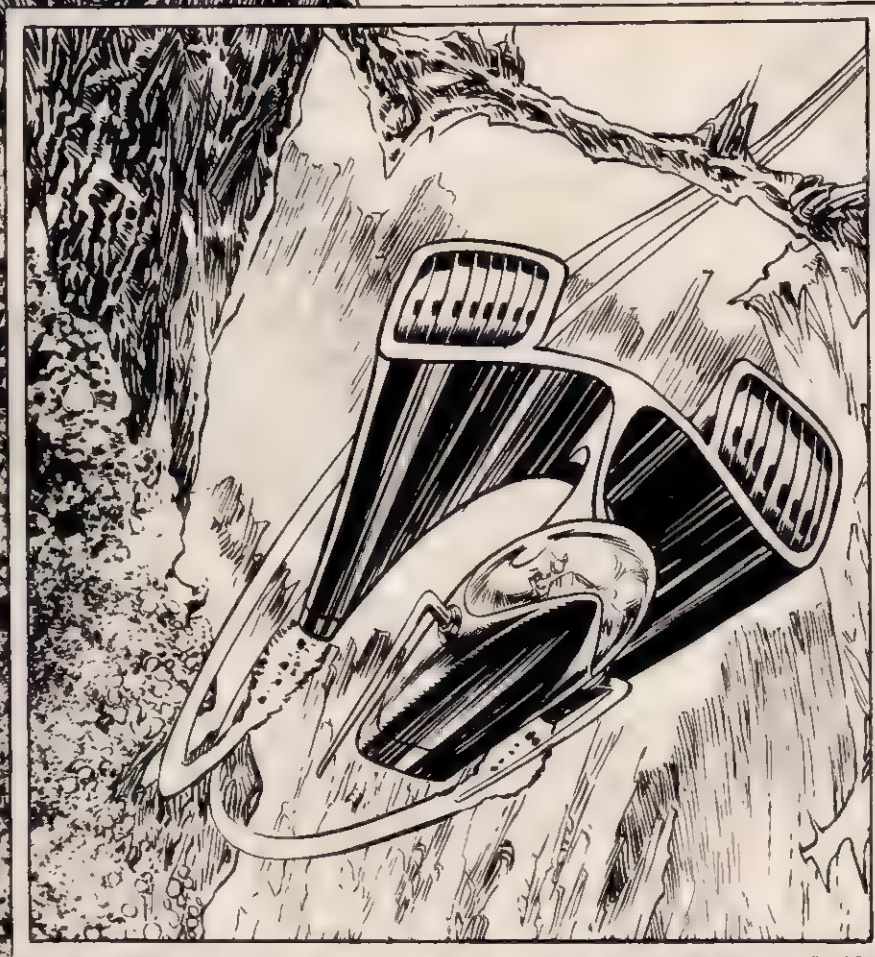
BUT EVERY GIRL WOULD LIKE TO FEEL... HEY! WHAT'S THAT?

GOOD LORD!



TYLER PULLED DOWN HARD ON THE STEERING MECHANISM AND THE SHIP RESPONDED, **SWERVING** TO AVOID THE FLYING **MONSTROSITY**. LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED AN **INFORMAL INTRODUCTION** TO A TERRIFYING ALIEN PLANET KNOWN AS...

BEASTWORLD



DAVID
HARRIS



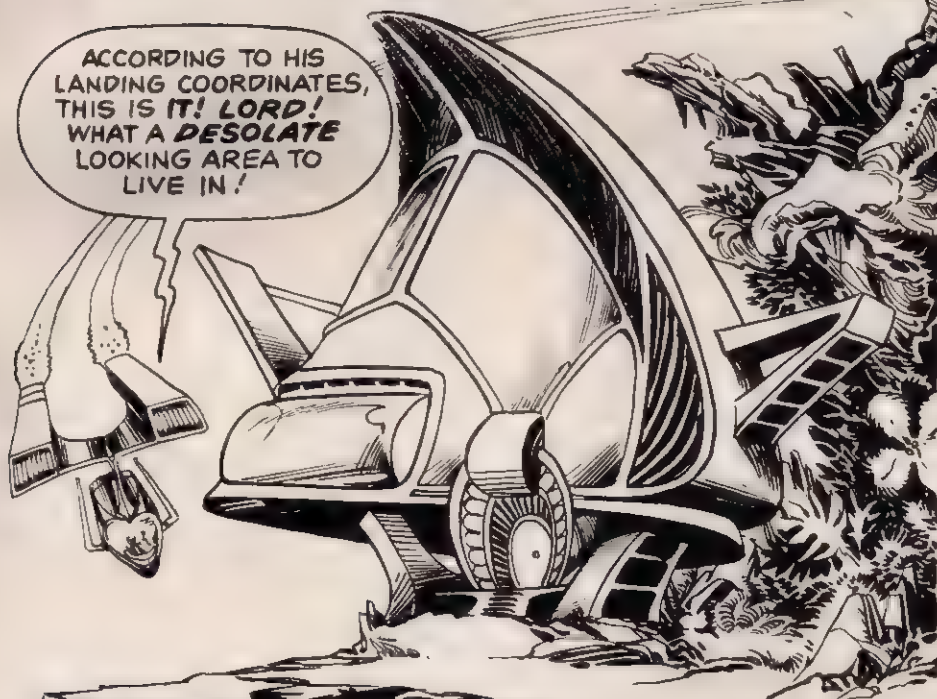
DIDN'T GET A
GOOD LOOK...
GONE, WHATEVER
IT WAS.

WHAT KIND OF
PLACE HAS YOUR
"FRIEND" LURED
US TO ANYWAY?



JUST RELAX, PUSS.
WE'LL SEE WHAT THIS
CHARACTER HAS COOKIN'
THEN **BLOW** IF IT'S
A BORE.

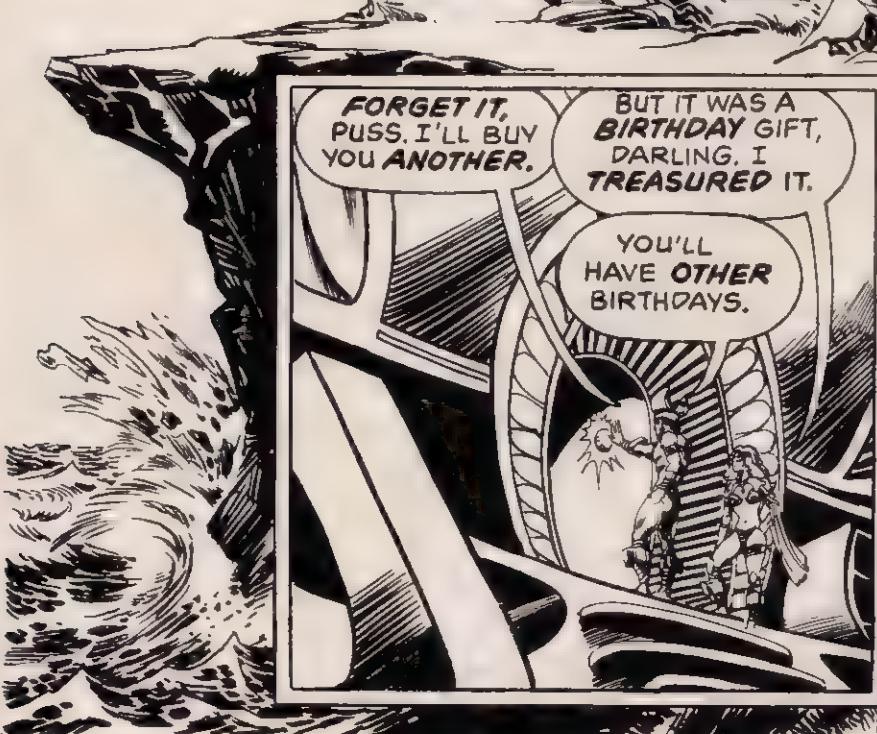
IT'S **ALREADY** A
BORE WHEN I KNOW
I COULD BE SPENDING
THE WEEKEND IN BED
WITH YOU, INSTEAD.



ACCORDING TO HIS
LANDING COORDINATES,
THIS IS IT! **LORD!**
WHAT A **DESOLATE**
LOOKING AREA TO
LIVE IN!



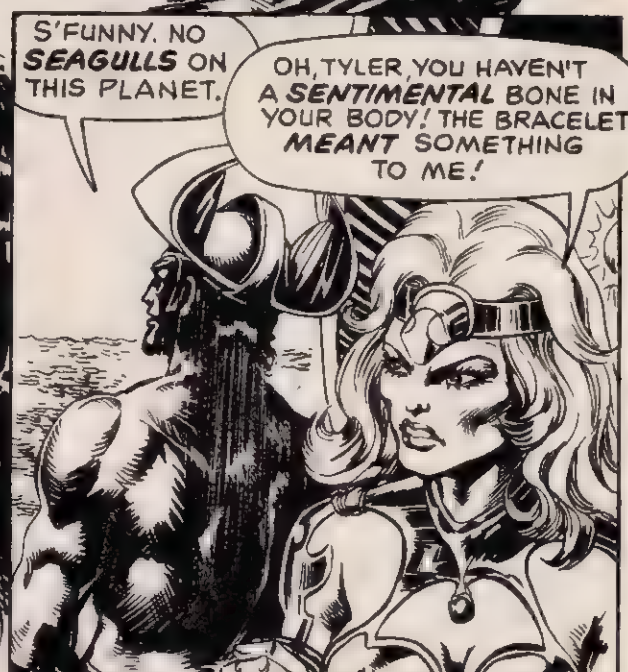
DAMN IT!
I'VE LOST THE
DIAMOND ANKLE
BRACELET YOU
GAVE ME, TYLER.



FORGET IT,
PUSS. I'LL BUY
YOU **ANOTHER.**

BUT IT WAS A
BIRTHDAY GIFT,
DARLING. I
TREASURED IT.

YOU'LL
HAVE **OTHER**
BIRTHDAYS.



S'FUNNY. NO
SEAGULLS ON
THIS PLANET.

OH, TYLER, YOU HAVEN'T
A **SENTIMENTAL** BONE IN
YOUR BODY! THE **BRACELET**
MEANT SOMETHING
TO ME!

WELL, WELL! LOOK WHO'S HERE! I KNEW YOU'D COME, CALLWELL. IS THIS YOUR WIFE?

THIS IS MY FRIEND, MONICA BENCHLY.

SO YOU'RE PETER THOMAS...

AH, I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED YOU WOULDN'T BE MARRIED... NOT YOU.

YES, I'M PETER THOMAS. DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU?

I'M AFRAID NOT. WERE YOU IN MY CLASS?

ONLY ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING. YOU WERE ALWAYS IN A CLASS BY YOURSELF.

FORGIVE ME; I DID GET MARRIED. THAT BUXOM YOUNG BRUNETTE ON THE SOFA IS RUTH THOMAS. SAY HELLO, RUTH.

HELLO...

GOOD GIRL. AND ONLY ONE REHEARSAL, TOO!

LET'S SEE NOW, SCOTCH AND SODA IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, RIGHT CALLWELL? AND FOR THE LADY?

THE SAME, THANK YOU.

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT I DRINK?

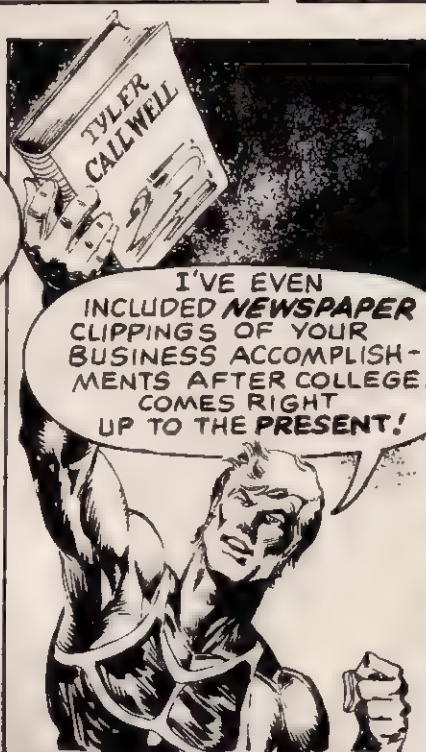
OH, I KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU, CALLWELL.

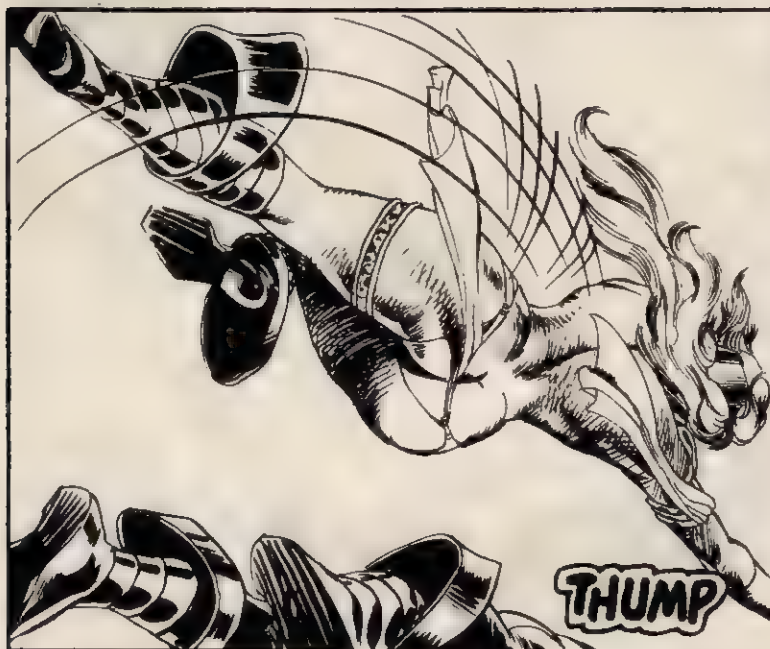
IMPRESSIVE PORTRAIT, ISN'T IT? NOT QUITE AS HANDSOME AS THE REAL THING BUT IT WILL DO.

NATURALLY, I'M FLATTERED. WAS THIS YOUR IDEA OR RUTH'S?

OH, MINE! OF COURSE, RUTHIE FINDS YOU FASCINATING TOO, DON'T YOU RUTHIE DEAR?

BUT THEN, ALL WOMEN DO, DON'T THEY?





LATER--

HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT! TIME TO WAKE UP MONICA, BABY!

WHA... TYLER?...

WHAT THE HELL? WHERE ARE WE?

IN PARADISE, LOVE. THINK OF US AS ANOTHER ADAM AND EVE...

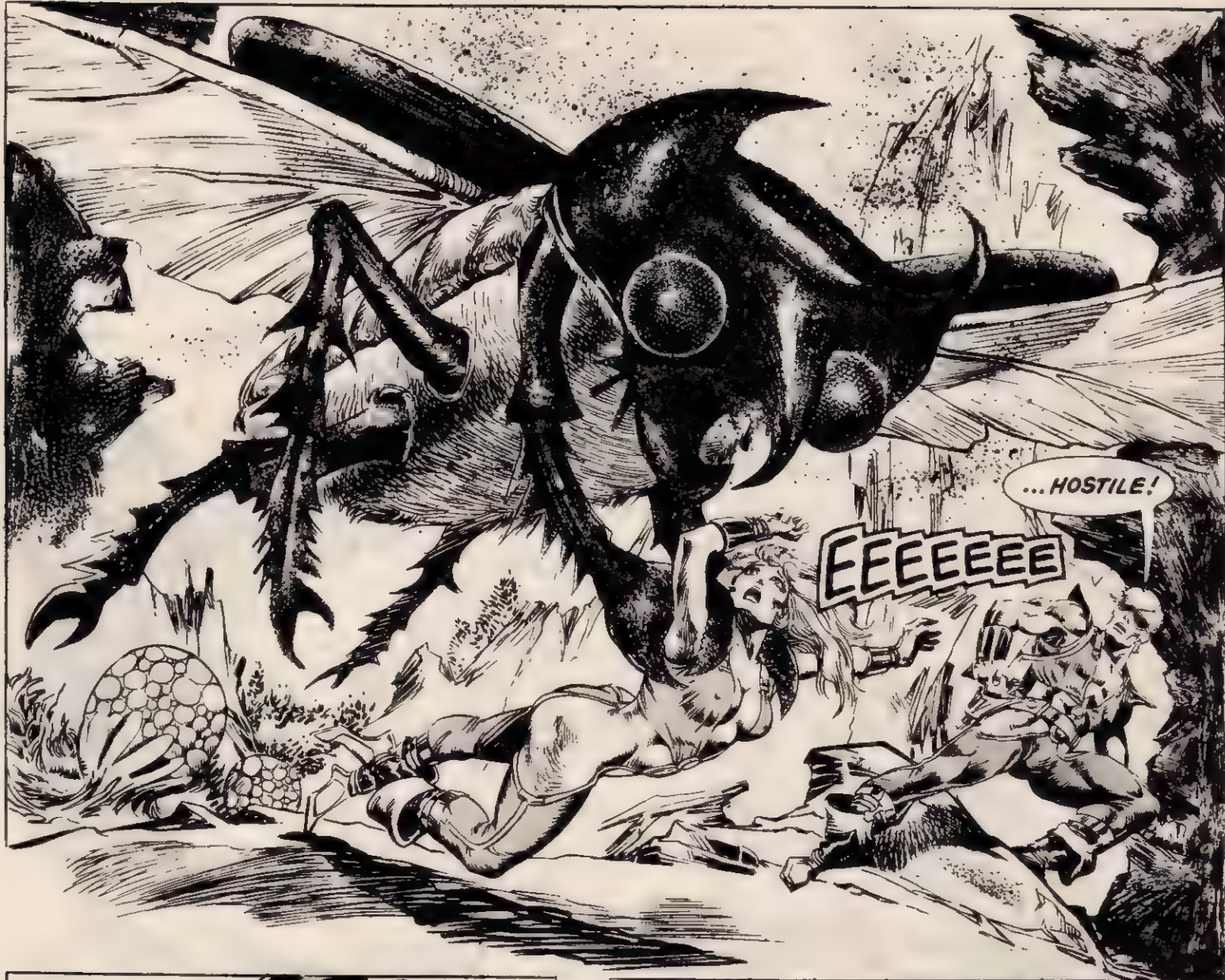
...AND THIS IS EDEN!

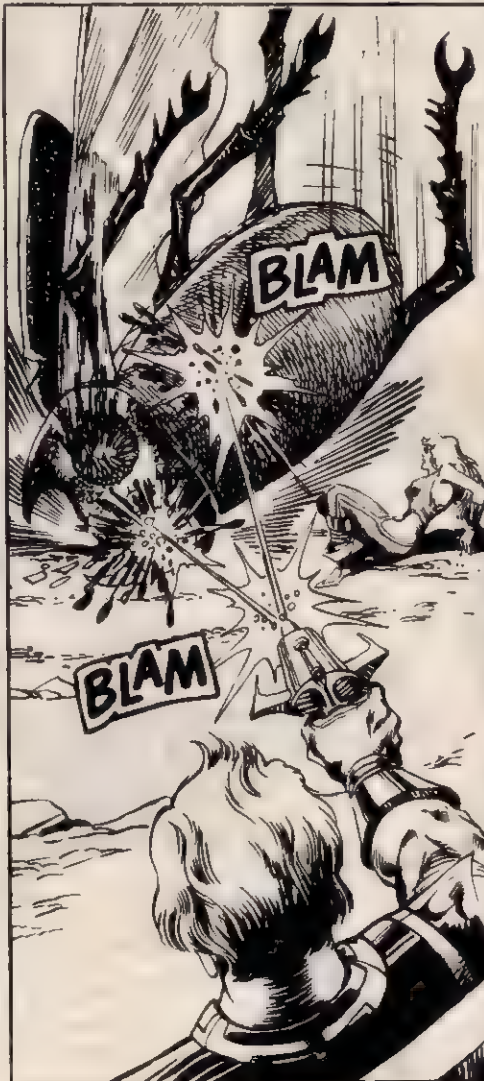
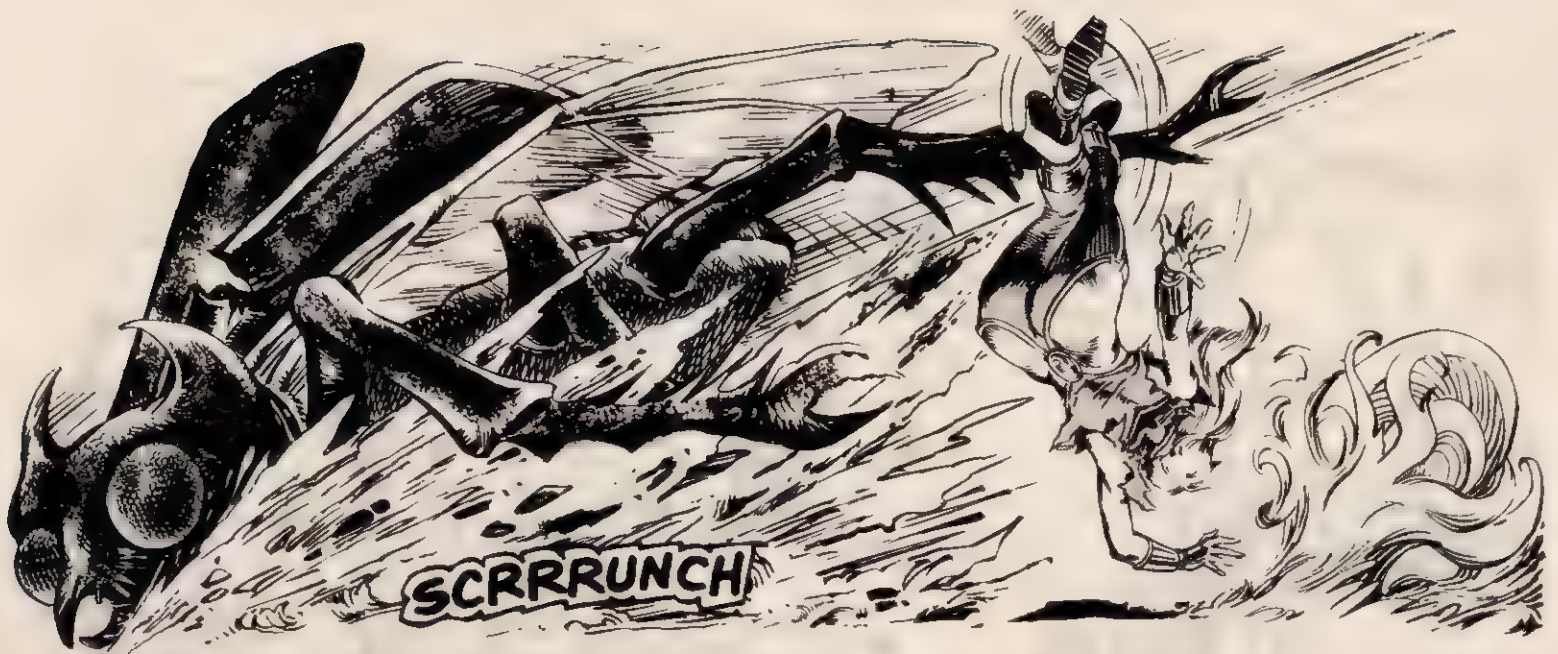
WHO DRESSED ME IN THESE CLOTHES? IS THIS SOME KIND OF A JOKE?

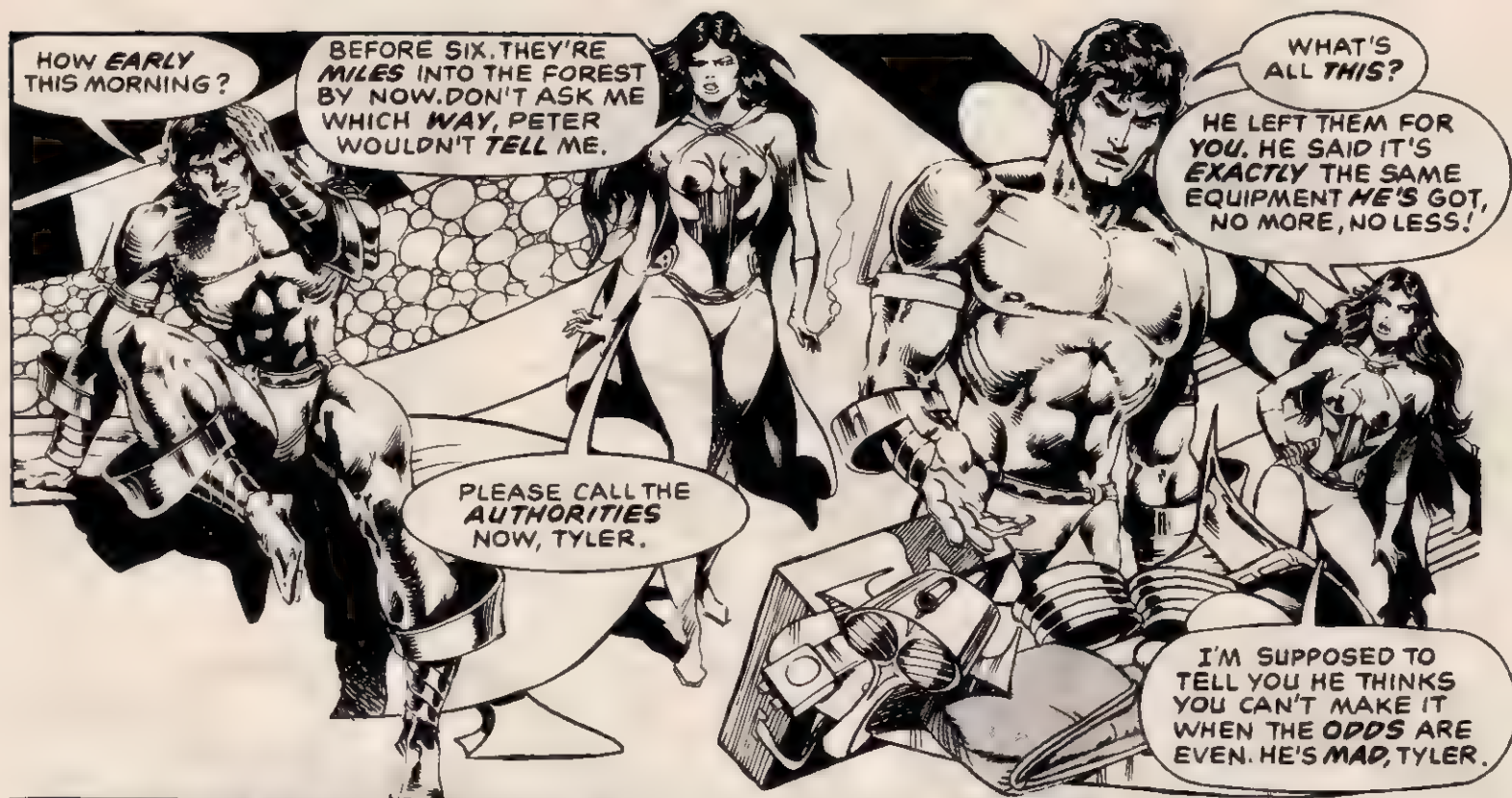
RUTH DRESSED YOU, MONICA DEAR. AND I ASSURE YOU, IT'S NO JOKE. YOU AND I ARE GOING TO GO FOR A LITTLE HIKE. ALL BY OURSELVES. WON'T THAT BE FUN?

I KNEW YOU WERE NUTS THE MINUTE I MET YOU! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

I WOULDN'T ADVISE THAT, LOVE. YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY LOCATING THE DOME. ALSO THE COUNTRY-SIDE MIGHT PROVE SOMEWHAT...







HOW **EARLY** THIS MORNING?

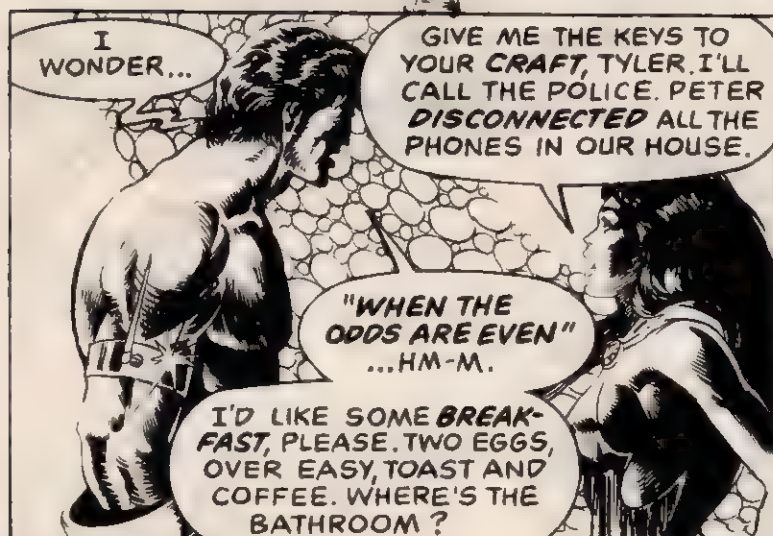
BEFORE SIX. THEY'RE **MILES** INTO THE FOREST BY NOW. DON'T ASK ME WHICH **WAY**, PETER WOULDN'T TELL ME.

WHAT'S ALL **THIS**?

HE LEFT THEM FOR YOU. HE SAID IT'S **EXACTLY** THE SAME EQUIPMENT HE'S GOT, NO MORE, NO LESS!

PLEASE CALL THE **AUTHORITIES** NOW, TYLER.

I'M SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU HE THINKS YOU CAN'T MAKE IT WHEN THE **ODDS** ARE EVEN. HE'S **MAD**, TYLER.



I WONDER...

GIVE ME THE KEYS TO YOUR **CRAFT**, TYLER. I'LL CALL THE POLICE. PETER **DISCONNECTED** ALL THE PHONES IN OUR HOUSE.

"WHEN THE **ODDS** ARE EVEN" ...HM-M.

I'D LIKE SOME **BREAK-FAST**, PLEASE. TWO EGGS, OVER EASY, TOAST AND COFFEE. WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?



DON'T, TYLER, PLEASE! CAN'T YOU SEE? HE **KNEW** YOU'D NEVER TURN DOWN A **CHALLENGE**! HE'S **BAITING** YOU... USING YOUR **EGO**!

I'LL EXPECT THAT **BREAKFAST** WHEN I'M THROUGH **SHOWERING** AND **SHAVING**...



YOU'RE NOT **EATING**?

EAT SOMETHING, YOU'LL **NEED** IT, AND WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH, GET INTO SOMETHING FOR **JUNGLE TRAVEL**.

IT'S AN **OBSESSION** WITH HIM, TYLER! HE'S GOT THIS **THING** ABOUT YOU ...ABOUT **WINNING**.

YOU'RE ONLY **PLAYING** INTO HIS **HANDS**... LOWERING YOURSELF TO **HIS** LEVEL!

Y-YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF TAKING **ME** WITH...

THAT'S **RIGHT**.



BUT **WHY**? TELL ME **WHY**?

YOU MIGHT BE **USEFUL**...

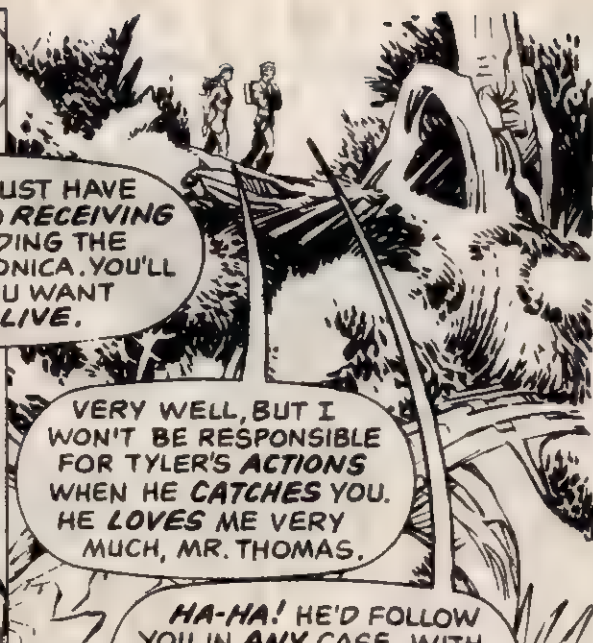


I'M HOLDING YOU ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS, MR. THOMAS! NOW KINDLY ESCORT ME BACK TO YOUR HOME!



COMFORTABLE GIVING ORDERS, AREN'T YOU? JUST LIKE CALLWELL.

WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO RECEIVING THEM! I'M HOLDING THE CARDS NOW, MONICA. YOU'LL OBEY ME IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE.



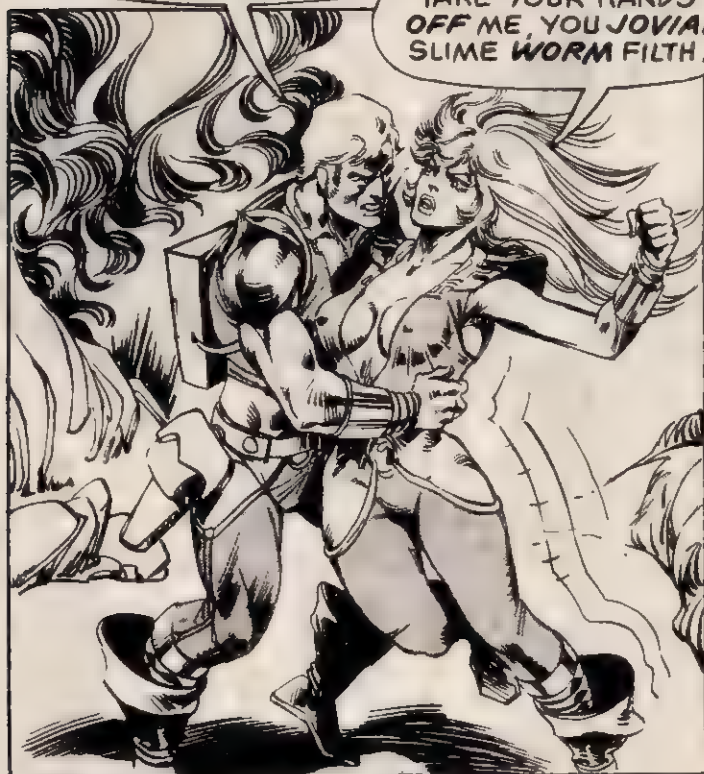
VERY WELL, BUT I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TYLER'S ACTIONS WHEN HE CATCHES YOU. HE LOVES ME VERY MUCH, MR. THOMAS.

HA-HA! HE'D FOLLOW YOU IN ANY CASE. WITH CALLWELL IT'S A MATTER OF HONOR; ANY LOVE IS INCIDENTAL.

OH!



CAREFUL, MISS BENCHLY. I'D HATE TO SEE THOSE BEAUTIFUL LEGS ALL BRUISED UP.



TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU JOVIAN SLIME WORM FILTH!



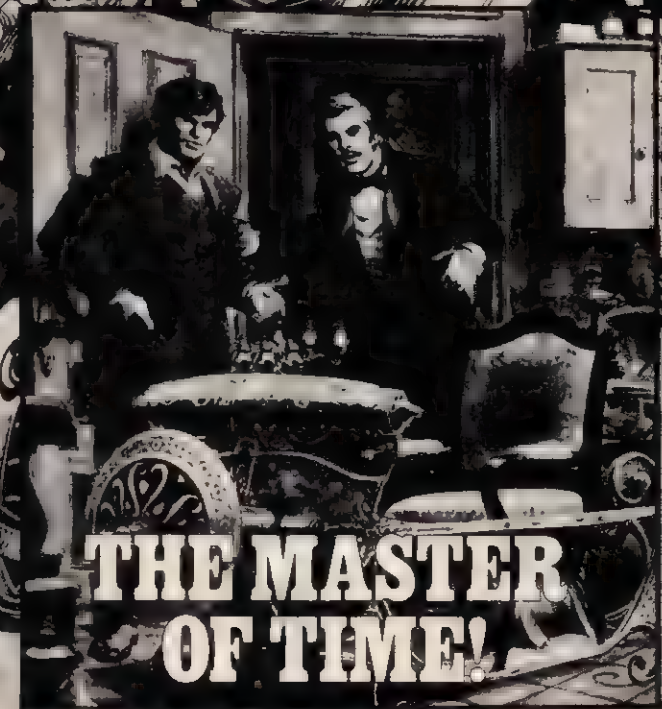
HA-HA! THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT VASSAR HAS IMPROVED!

**THE NEW WARREN AGE
OF EXCITEMENT HAS ARRIVED!**

**IN THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURE-PACKED
MAGAZINE!**

The ROOK

FEATURING:

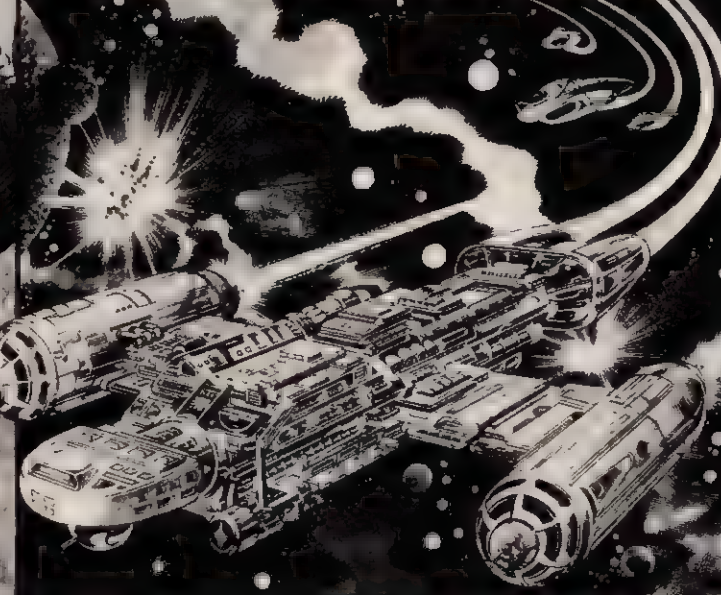


**THE MASTER
OF TIME!**

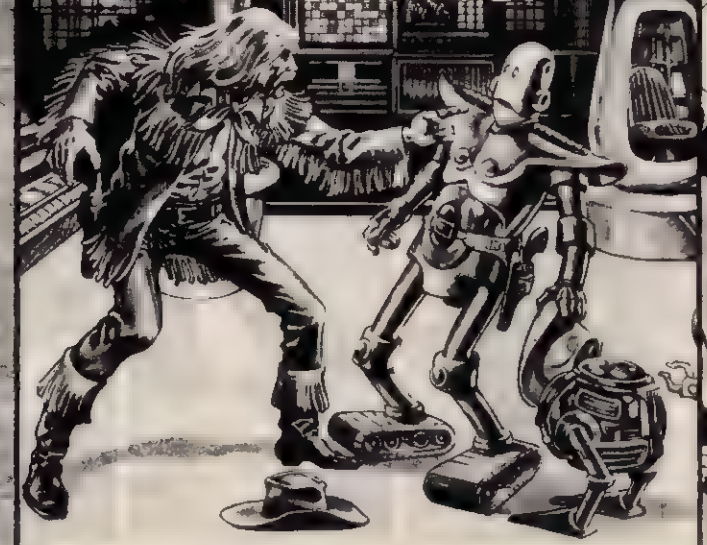


BOLT

BUCK BLASTER!



**MANNERS
THE ROBOT!**



AT NEWS STANDS EVERYWHERE...

...AUGUST 31st

FULL COLOR POSTERS!



SUPERMAN FLYING PORTRAIT, Full color
34"x22", #29022/\$2.50



ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA
28"x22", #29027/\$2.50



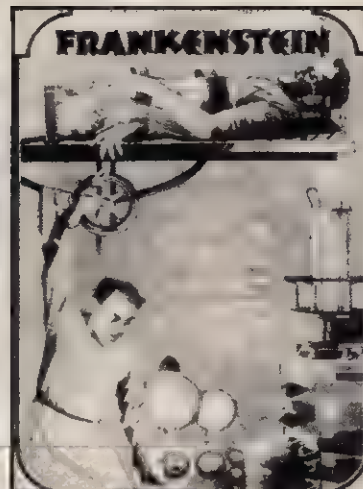
INTERCOSMIC COMBAT
35"x23", #29023/\$2.50



PRINCE VALIANT
28"x19", #2973/\$3.00



KING KONG, Giant B&W
6 feet x 4 1/2 feet, #2956/\$4.95



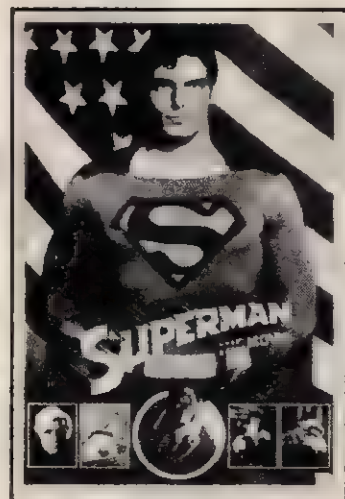
FRANKENSTEIN
38"x26", #2974/\$1.98



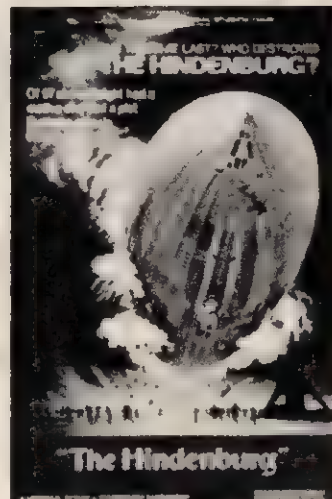
THE INVASION
35"x23", #29024/\$2.50



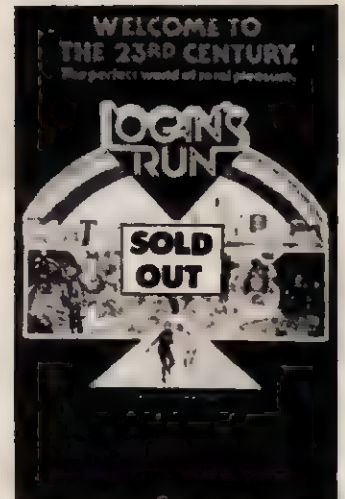
THE HULK
35"x26", #2908/\$3.00



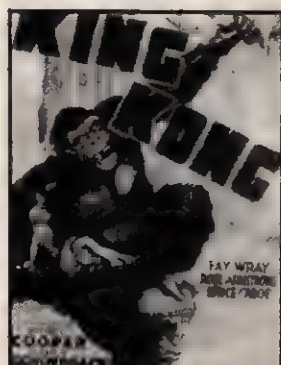
SUPERMAN FLAG PORTRAIT
34"x22", #29021/\$2.50



THE HINDENBURG
35"x23", #2987/\$2.50



LOGAN'S RUN
35"x23", #2989/\$2.50



KING KONG
29"x20", #2926/\$3.00



DRACULA
29"x21", #2924/\$3.00



FRANKENSTEIN
29"x21", #2927/\$2.00



MIDNIGHT BATTLE, By Corban
14"x11", #2969/\$1.50



ANTICIPATION, By Corban
14"x11", #2970/\$1.50



The Open Sky

Vladimir

NIKOLAI'S EYES ARE KEENER THAN MINE. HE WAS THE FIRST TO SEE THE HORSEMAN, WHEN ALL I SAW WAS A CLOUD OF DUST. BUT EVENTUALLY I COULD MAKE OUT DETAILS.

THE MAN WAS RACING ALONG THE OLD RIVER HIGHWAY, SPURRING HIS MOUNT, HIS LOOSE CLOTHES BILLOWING IN THE WIND. HE TURNED DOWN OUR PRIVATE ROAD, AND WE BEGAN TO FOLLOW HIM.

IN THE FRONT YARD OF OUR CABIN, HE WHEELED HIS HORSE AROUND, AND MOTIONED FOR US TO LAND. WE HAD A VISITOR, IT SEEMED, OUR FIRST IN MONTHS--A MAN IN A HURRY.

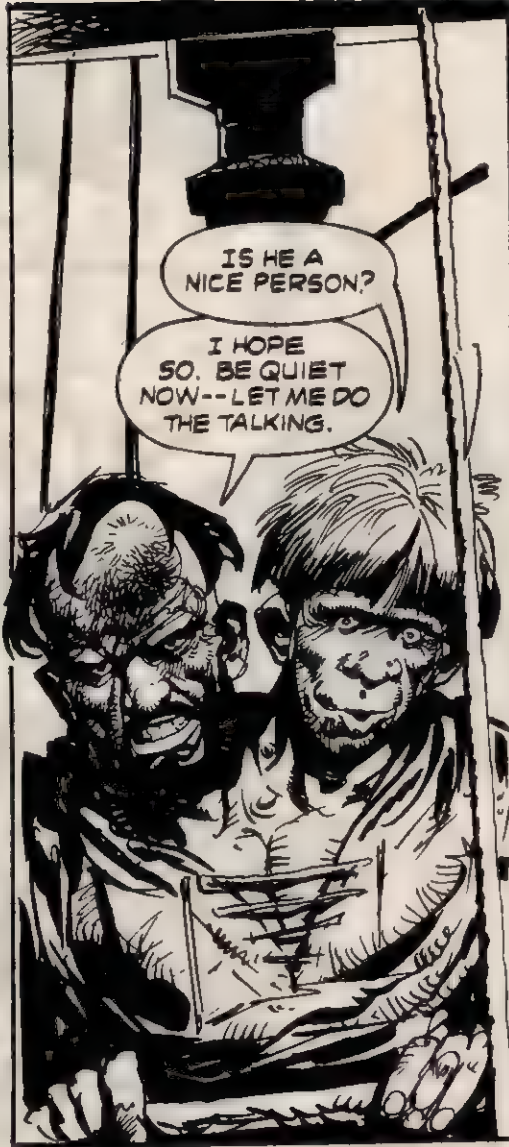
DO WE KNOW HIM, VLADIMIR? IS HE A FRIEND?

HE'S A STRANGER--AND AS TO WHETHER HE'S A FRIEND, WE'LL FIND THAT OUT SOON ENOUGH.



LOOK AT HIS
ARM. IT'S ALL
STIFF AND **GREEN**,
LIKE I DON'T
KNOW WHAT.

LIKE **JADE**,
NIKOLAI, CARVED
JADE.



IS HE A
NICE PERSON?

I HOPE
SO. BE QUIET
NOW--LET ME DO
THE TALKING.



GREETINGS,
GOODSIRS--MAY I SAY
HOW **IMPRESSED** I AM
WITH YOUR **MAGNIFICENT**
BALLOON?

YOU'RE
VERY KIND.



I'M
CURIOUS--WHAT
MAKES YOUR WONDER-
FUL INVENTION
FLY?

HOT AIR,
THAT'S ALL. THE
HOTTER THE AIR, THE
HIGHER IT RISES.
REDUCE THE FIRE, AND
DOWN IT COMES!



IT'S SIMPLY
ASTONISHING.
HOW DO YOU
STEER?

WE GO BY
THE **WIND**
CURRENTS
ABOVE THE EARTH.
THEY CHANGE
DIRECTION AT
DIFFERENT
ALTITUDES. WE
RARELY HAVE
TROUBLE FINDING
ONE THAT'S
SUITABLE.



I'D LIKE TO
BUY YOUR **BALLOON**.
I'LL PAY YOU WHATEVER
YOU THINK IT'S WORTH--
JUST NAME YOUR PRICE.
I CAN AFFORD TO
INDULGE MYSELF.



WHAT DO YOU SAY? FIFTY ROYALS? A HUNDRED ROYALS? HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?

I'M SORRY--WE'RE NOT MERCHANTS. OUR BALLOONS AREN'T FOR SALE. NOT AT ANY PRICE.



THIS IS MOST UNFORTUNATE.

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

HE REGRETS THE SHOW OF FORCE--



--BUT HE WANTS THAT BALLOON REGARDLESS. I BRAND HIM A COMMON THIEF.

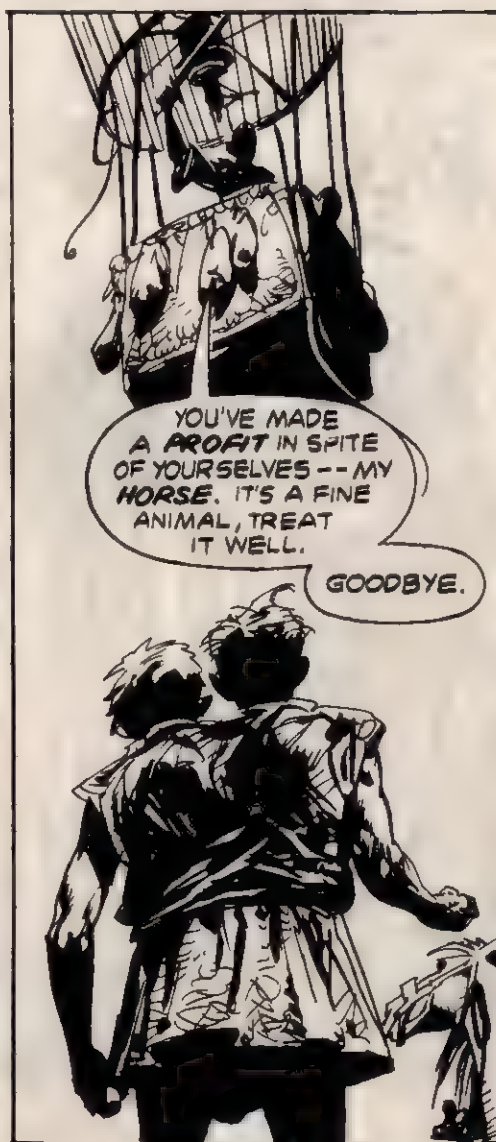
A THIEF PERHAPS, BUT HARDLY COMMON.



HE ISN'T BEING VERY NICE. WE SHOULD STOP HIM.

WE CAN'T FIGHT A SWORDSMAN WITH OUR BARE HANDS.

A PROFOUNDLY SENSIBLE OUTLOOK.



YOU'VE MADE A PROFIT IN SPITE OF YOURSELVES -- MY HORSE. IT'S A FINE ANIMAL, TREAT IT WELL.

GOODBYE.



I LIKE HORSES. DO YOU LIKE HORSES? LET'S GO FOR A RIDE.

NOT RIGHT NOW, NIKOLAI, NOT RIGHT NOW...

...MAYBE AFTERWARDS.

WHILE WE WAITED FOR ANOTHER BALLOON TO INFLATE, WE PUT AN EDGE ON OUR GRANDFATHER'S ANCIENT SWORD.

ARE WE GOING TO KILL THAT NASTY PERSON?

NO--WE'RE GOING TO TAKE HIS EYES, AND HIS MANHOOD AND HIS OTHER ARM.



WITH THAT PRICE PAID, THE BALLOON IS HIS. WE'LL SET HIM ADRIFT IN IT AND--

LOOK, VLADIMIR-- MORE COMPANY.



AWW-- THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF KIDS. LET'S BE NICE TO THEM.



GREETINGS, GOODSIRS. MY NAME IS **MOONSHADOW**, AND MY COMPANION IS **ARIANNE**.

GO AWAY. WE'RE BUSY!

DON'T BE SO MEAN. AT LEAST WE CAN GIVE THEM A CUP OF TEA BEFORE THEY GO.



I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU. JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME.

I TOLD YOU--WE'RE **BUSY**. KEEP MOVING!

HE'S IN A REAL BAD MOOD TODAY.



ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO A MAN IN A BALLOON VERY MUCH LIKE THAT ONE KILLED MY **HORSE** WITH AN ARROW. WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

I WON'T DISCUSS IT--GO AWAY.

WORST MOOD I'VE EVER SEEN HIM IN.



MY ANGER AND SHAME GOT THE BEST OF ME THEN, AND I TOOK A SWIFT STEP FORWARD--

I'M WARNING YOU! LEAVE US IMMEDIATELY.

VLADIMIR
--NO!



SHUT UP!

THIS IS A BAD THING WE'RE DOING.



YOUR MANNERS LEAVE ALMOST AS MUCH TO BE DESIRED--



-- AS YOUR FENCING TECHNIQUE.



DON'T HURT HIM-- THEM.

I WON'T. NOT UNLESS I HAVE TO.



NOW ABOUT THE MAN WHO KILLED MY HORSE --WHAT HAS HE TO DO WITH YOU?

TELL HIM, VLADIMIR, TELL HIM.

THAT MAN STOLE OUR BALLOON FROM US, BUT I SWEAR WE'LL AVENGE OURSELVES.

AVENGE YOURSELVES WITH WHAT-- YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP?

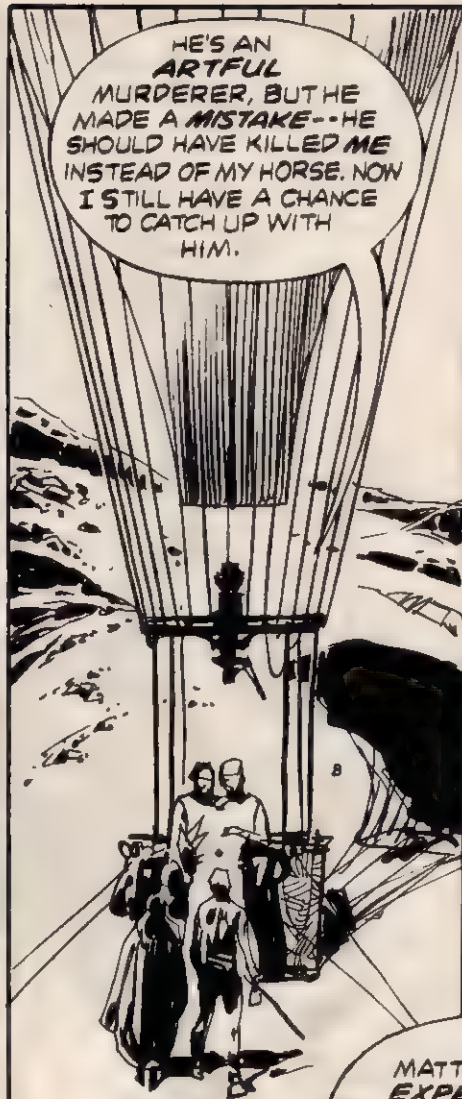


LISTEN--YOUR THIEF'S NAME IS **FRANÇOIS**. HE'S THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE **THIRTEEN**, THE BUTCHER'S DOZEN WHO LED THE **LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS**.

I'VE BEEN TRACKING HIM FOR OVER A YEAR.



HE'S AN **ARTFUL** MURDERER, BUT HE MADE A **MISTAKE**--HE SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME INSTEAD OF MY HORSE. NOW I STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH HIM.



WILL THAT BALLOON OF YOURS CARRY **THREE** PASSENGERS?



IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE HAS **NO** EXPERIENCE WITH BALLOONS, WITH THE WAYS OF THE WIND, AND EXPERIENCE COUNTS FOR EVERYTHING. HIS LEAD WILL **EVAPORATE**.

FRANÇOIS HAS A PRETTY GOOD LEAD ON US.



WE SET OUT IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. MY ANGER HAD COOLED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT MOON-SHADOW WAS ON OUR SIDE, AND WAS IN FACT, THE BEST INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE AVAILABLE TO US.



WE SHOULD REACH THE MOUNTAIN TOP BEFORE DARK. ANY IDEA WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

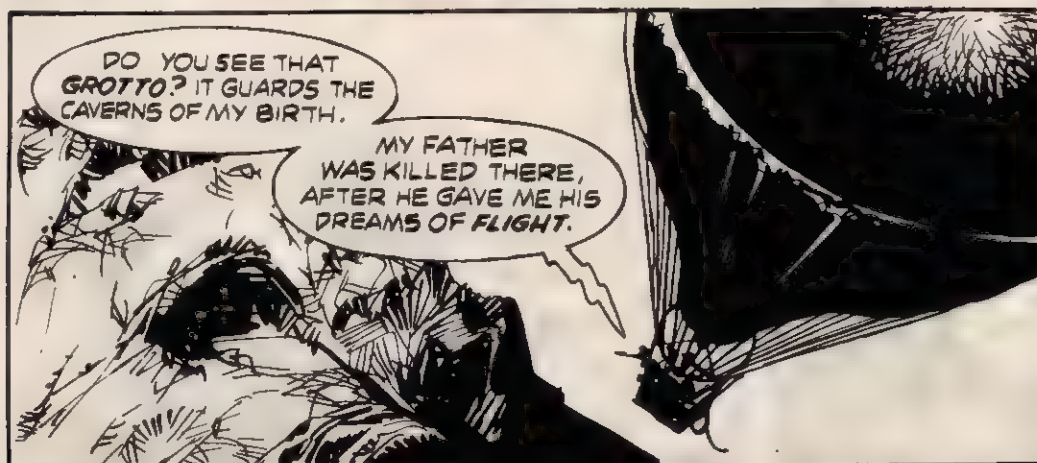
YES--THE SEA.





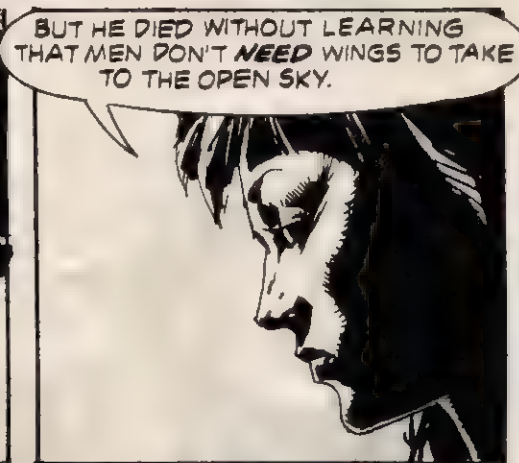
YOU LOOK SO SAD, ARI. IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT--ABOUT MY HOME.

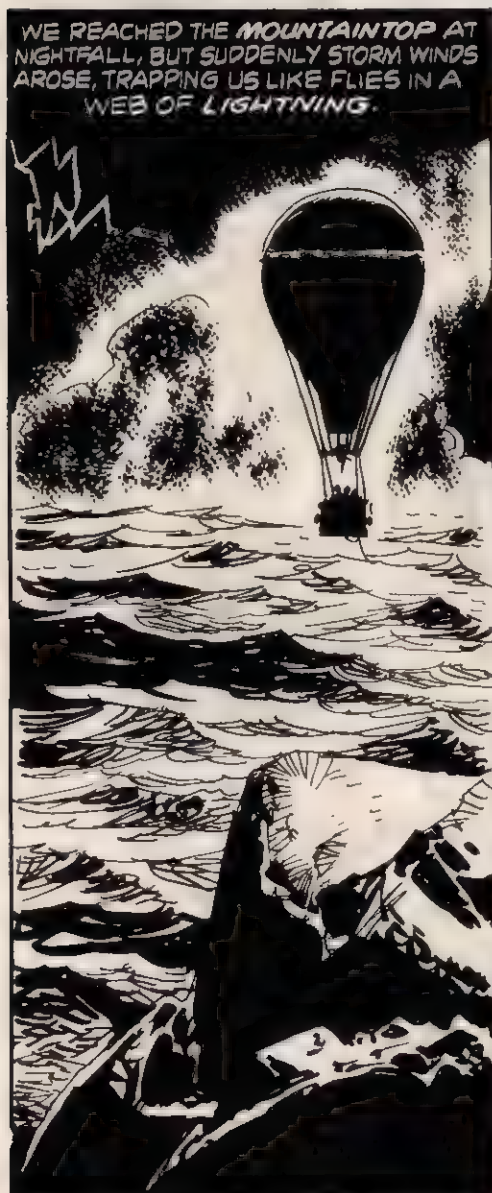


DO YOU SEE THAT GROTTO? IT GUARDS THE CAVERNS OF MY BIRTH.

MY FATHER WAS KILLED THERE, AFTER HE GAVE ME HIS DREAMS OF FLIGHT.



BUT HE DIED WITHOUT LEARNING THAT MEN DON'T *NEED* WINGS TO TAKE TO THE OPEN SKY.



WE REACHED THE *MOUNTAINTOP* AT NIGHTFALL, BUT SUDDENLY STORM WINDS AROSE, TRAPPING US LIKE FLIES IN A WEB OF *LIGHTNING*.



OUR BALLOON LURCHED WILDLY AS THE *STORM* DRAGGED US OUT TO SEA. THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO BUT TEND OUR FIRE AND PRAY FOR THE RAIN TO PASS US BY.



WE FACED TWO POSSIBLE DOOMS. UNCHECKED FLAMES COULD SET US ABLAZE, BUT RAIN COULD DOUSE THE FIRE COMPLETELY, DEPRIVING US OF OUR HOT AIR--

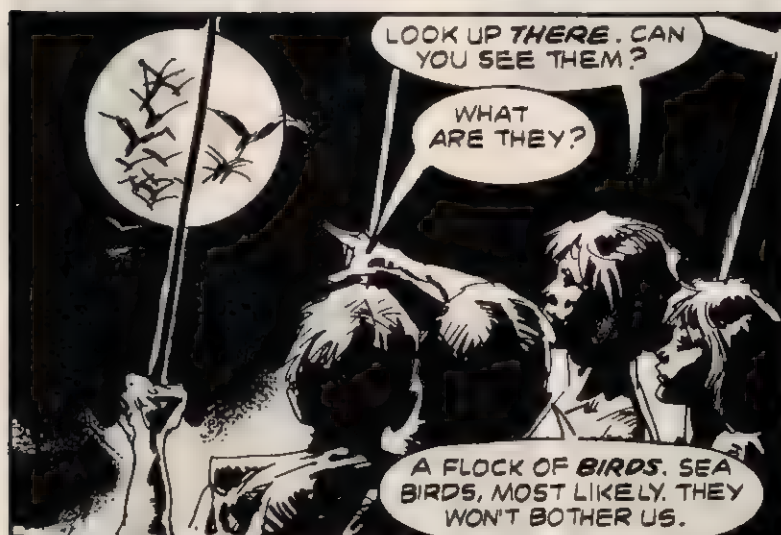
--LEAVING US TO SINK BENEATH THE RAGING WAVES BELOW.

BUT AS SUDDENLY AS IT BEGAN, THE STORM ENDED, HAVING CARRIED US FAR OUT TO SEA.

IS IT OVER?

I THINK SO.

DON'T BE TOO SURE.



THEY CAME AT US IN DROVES, THEIR EYES BRIGHT RED, THEIR WEIRD CRIES FILLING THE AIR.



MOONSHADOW'S SWORD WAS TORN FROM HIS GRASP-- AND THEN THEY CLOSED IN ON HIM.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT TOOK BUT AN INSTANT. TWO OF THE BATS SEIZED MOONSHADOW BY HIS ARMS--



--AND BEGAN TO DRAG HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN SKY.



ARIANNE THREW HERSELF ACROSS THE BASKET--



--DESPERATELY TRYING TO SAVE HIM--



--BUT IT WAS TOO LATE, FOR BOTH OF THEM.



FOR A LONG TERRIBLE MOMENT THEY HUNG SUSPENDED OVER THE DARK AND TURBULENT SEA.



WE WAITED HELPLESSLY AS THE BATS RELEASED THEM, WATCHED AS THEY FELL THROUGH THE WARM NIGHT AIR--



--AND THEN THEY WERE GONE.

SCREEEE



THEY'RE FLYING AWAY -- BUT WHY?

IT WASN'T US THEY WERE AFTER.



NOW THOSE AWFUL BATS WILL COME FOR US.

I DON'T THINK SO.



THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH OF IT TONIGHT ALREADY.



WHAT DO WE DO NOW, VLADIMIR? FIND THE THIEF ALONE?

LET'S JUST GO BACK HOME. REVENGE DOESN'T SEEM SO IMPORTANT ANY MORE.



The Horizon Seekers

Temple of the Ravagers

ALLISON AND JESSE! THEY CAME FROM DIFFERENT ENDS OF THE EARTH--THE EARTH AS IT WAS, BEFORE THE MYSTERIOUS HOLOCAUST WHICH RELENTLESSLY WARPED EVERYTHING ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET--ANIMAL, MINERAL AND VEGETABLE! LIKE THE REST OF HUMANITY'S SURVIVORS, ALLISON AND JESSE HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF THEIR MEMORIES... THEIR PAST!

ALL THEY CAN DO IS LOOK TO THE FUTURE--AND STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE A MOST PERILOUS PRESENT!

THE OLD MAN STRADDLING JESSE'S ABLE SHOULDERS HAD INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS "MERLIN"...

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HE TOO WAS AT A LOSS TO RECALL HIS PAST--THE SEVENTY-ODD YEARS OF LIFE HE HAD ENDURED BEFORE THE MYSTERIOUS HOLOCAUST ERASED THEM FROM HIS MIND!



CAN WE STOP FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND REST, JESSE? MY ARMS ACHE SO!

NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS JESSE'S LEGS, I'LL WAGER!



YOUR REST IS COMING RIGHT UP, MERLIN! TAKE A LOOK UP AHEAD!

THESE WEARY EYES CANNOT FOCUS THAT FAR, MY SON! DESCRIBE WHAT YOU SEE!

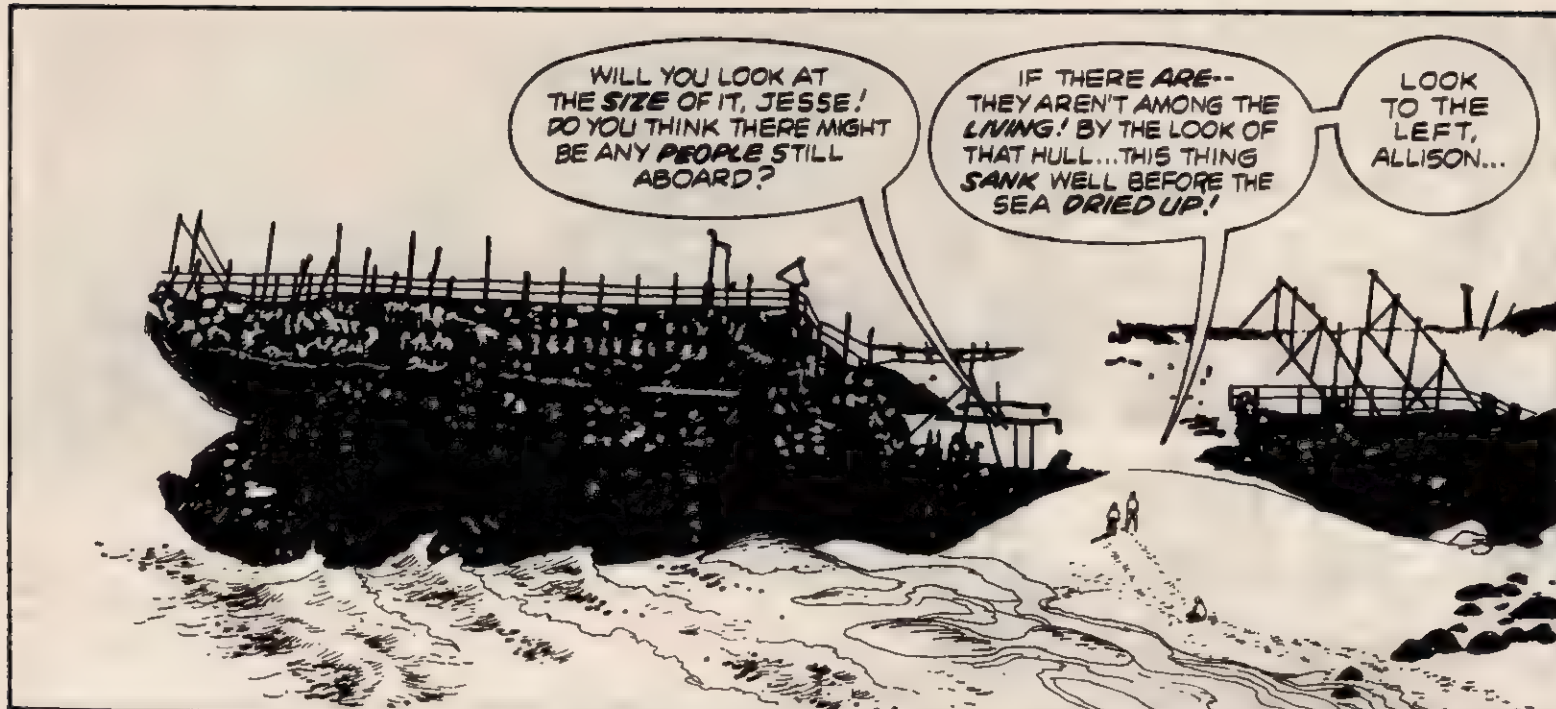


WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE REMAINS OF SOME SORT OF SHIP!

A TANKER, I'D SAY.

THE SEA-BOTTOM MUST HAVE ONCE EXTENDED ALL THE WAY ACROSS THIS DESERT!





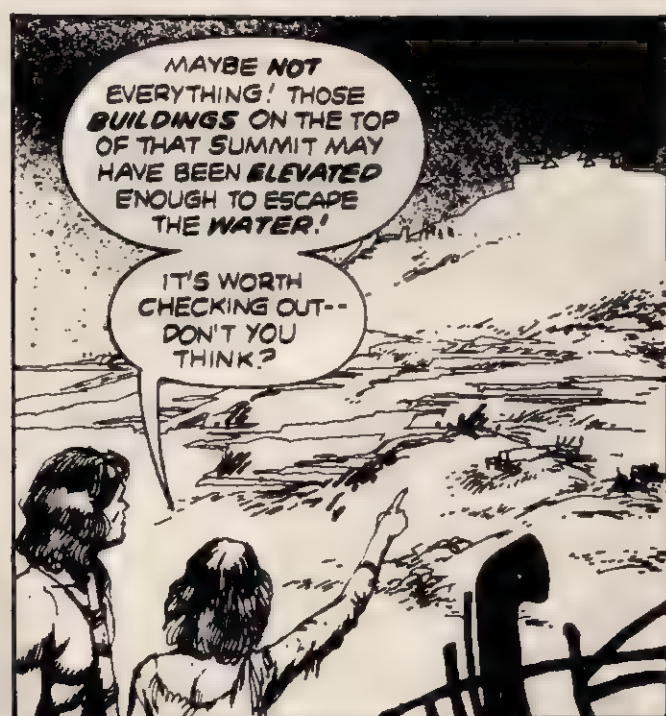
WILL YOU LOOK AT THE **SIZE** OF IT, **JESSE!** DO YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE ANY **PEOPLE** STILL ABOARD?

IF THERE **ARE--** THEY **AREN'T** AMONG THE **LIVING!** BY THE LOOK OF THAT **HULL...THIS** THING **SANK** WELL BEFORE THE **SEA DRIED UP!**

LOOK TO THE **LEFT,** **ALLISON...**

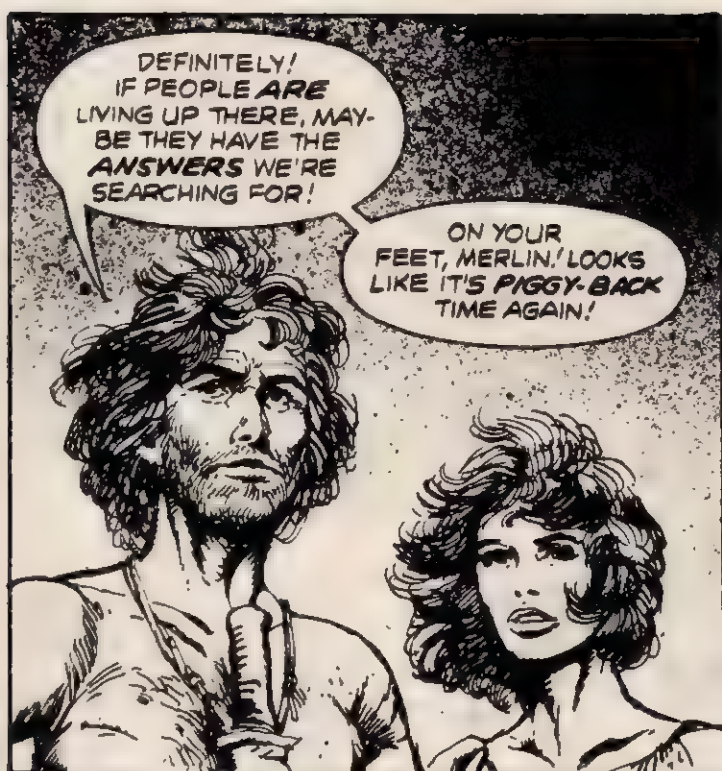


...WE SEEM TO BE IN THE **RUINS** OF WHAT WAS ONCE A **PORT!** TOWARD THE **END** THE **SEA** MUST'VE BEEN SO **TURBULENT** IT WASHED OVER EVERYTHING!



MAYBE **NOT** EVERYTHING! THOSE **BUILDINGS** ON THE TOP OF THAT **SUMMIT** MAY HAVE BEEN **ELEVATED** ENOUGH TO **ESCAPE** THE **WATER!**

IT'S WORTH CHECKING OUT-- DON'T YOU THINK?



DEFINITELY! IF **PEOPLE ARE** LIVING UP THERE, MAYBE THEY HAVE THE **ANSWERS** WE'RE SEARCHING FOR!

ON YOUR **FEET,** **MERLIN!** LOOKS LIKE IT'S **PIGGY-BACK** TIME AGAIN!



NOT THIS TIME, **JESSE--** THESE **FRAIL** BONES COULD NOT SURVIVE SUCH A **CLIMB!**

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT **HERE...** AND I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU TWO TO BRING BACK **ENCOURAGING** **NEWS!**

NOW BE **OFF!**

AND GRUELING HOURS LATER--AFTER THE ARDUOUS UPHILL TREK...

ALL THAT CLIMBING (PANT) AND NOT ONE FACE TO GREET US! THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE ANYWHERE!

AN OPTIMIST SHOULDN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY, ALLISON! LET'S KEEP LOOKING!

YOU WERE RIGHT, JESSE-- THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE HERE!

PERHAPS...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAN POOR DEVIL CAN TELL US NOW!

OH! I DON'T WANT TO LOOK!

ASSUMING THAT FELLOW DIDN'T HANG HIMSELF...HIS EXECUTIONERS MIGHT STILL BE SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY--

LIKE UP THERE!

WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A LOOK! WE'VE COME THIS FAR...

IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TEMPLE-- WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MAYBE...

...BUT A TEMPLE TO WHAT?

AND WHO OR WHAT DID THE BUILDERS ERECT IT TO WORSHIP?

EVEN IN THIS
DETERIORATED CONDITION...
THE DECOR IS NOTHING SHORT
OF MAGNIFICENT!

IF YOU
ASK ME, IT'S A
TRIFLE OVERDONE!

WHEN I
THINK OF THE
DESTITUTE SURVIVORS
WE'VE SEEN HUDDLING
TOGETHER IN CAVES...AND
THEN I SEE THIS KIND OF
WASTEFUL DECADENCE!

IMAGINE HOW
MANY PEOPLE
COULD FIND SHELTER
HERE!

I'M GOING TO
CHECK OUT THE SECOND
FLOOR OF THIS PALACE!
IF YOU NEED ME,
JUST CALL!

RIGHT!
I'LL LOOK
AROUND SOME
MORE DOWN
HERE!

KRECHHH!

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

I
COULD'VE
SWORN I HEARD
A SOUND
COMING FROM
BELOW THE
FLOOR!

KRECHHH!

THERE IT
IS AGAIN!

KRECHHH!

AAAAAEE
EE!

KERASH!

OH...H...

(WHEW) DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE ANYTHING'S
BROKEN! I'M REALLY
LUCKY TO STILL BE INTACT!
I GUESS THIS COULD'VE
BEEN A LOT WORSE!



ALLISON!

THAT
CRASHING
SOUND I HEARD--
IT WAS **ALLISON**
FALLING THROUGH
THE FLOOR!



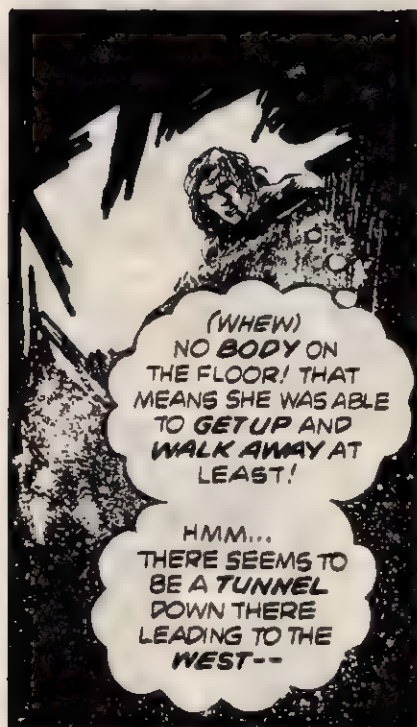
ALLISON!

SHE
HAS TO BE
ALL RIGHT!



ALLISON?

PLEASE
GOD...I CAN'T
LOSE HER **NOW**...NOT
AFTER ALL WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH
TOGETHER!



(WHEW)
NO BODY ON
THE FLOOR! THAT
MEANS SHE WAS ABLE
TO GET UP AND
WALK AWAY AT
LEAST!

HMM...
THERE SEEMS TO
BE A TUNNEL
DOWN THERE
LEADING TO THE
WEST--



--SO I'LL
HEAD WEST UP
HERE-- AND SEE
HOW FAR IT TAKES
ME!



NOT TOO FAR
AT ALL! IF ALLISON
WENT BEYOND THIS
POINT SHE MUST'VE
SWUM!



OMIGOD!
A GIRL--AT
THE OTHER END OF
THE POOL! SHE
MIGHT'VE SEEN
ALLISON!



HEY YOU
...WAIT!

I JUST
WANT TO TALK
TO YOU!



LOOKS
LIKE I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO TAKE
A BATH BEFORE WE
CAN HAVE A
CONVERSATION!



(GLUB) THE WAY THAT GIRL LOOKED AT ME... YOU'D THINK SHE NEVER LAID EYES ON A MAN BEFORE!



IF I CAN ONLY GET HER TO LISTEN FOR A MOMENT... I'M SURE I CAN CONVINCE HER SHE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME!

WOMEN! THEY'RE SO EMOTIONAL...

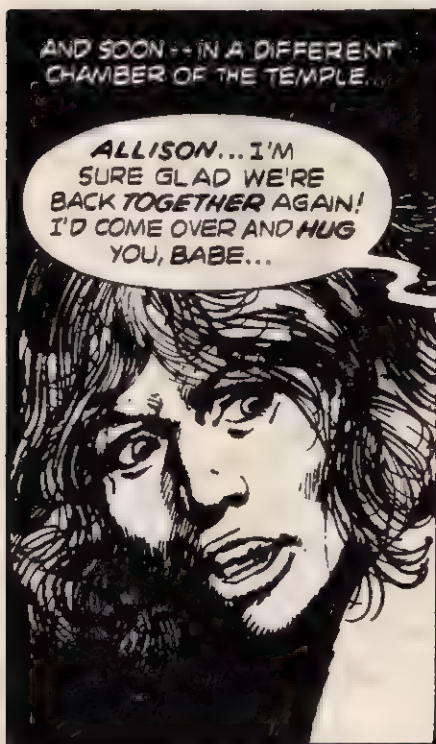


EYAAHH! IT'S A WHOLE PACK OF THEM!

GIRLS! YOU CAN LET UP NOW... YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION!



CLOSE YOUR FOUL MOUTH, LOWLY MALE-- OR WE'LL RIP OUT YOUR TONGUE!



AND SOON -- IN A DIFFERENT CHAMBER OF THE TEMPLE...

ALLISON... I'M SURE GLAD WE'RE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN! I'D COME OVER AND HUG YOU, BABE...



...BUT I SEEM TO BE TIED UP AT THE MOMENT!

THAT MAKES TWO OF US, DOESN'T IT? US AND OUR BRIGHT IDEAS!



IT'S THEIR IDEAS I'M WORRIED ABOUT! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENS NEXT?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS ASKING MYSELF--

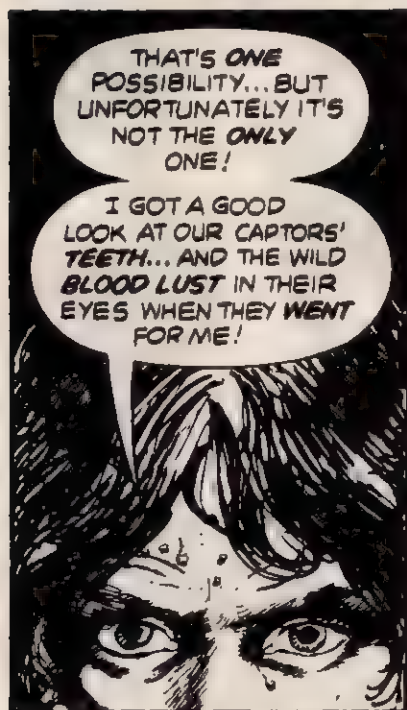


--AND THEN
I HAPPENED TO LOOK
WHERE I WISH I
HADN'T!



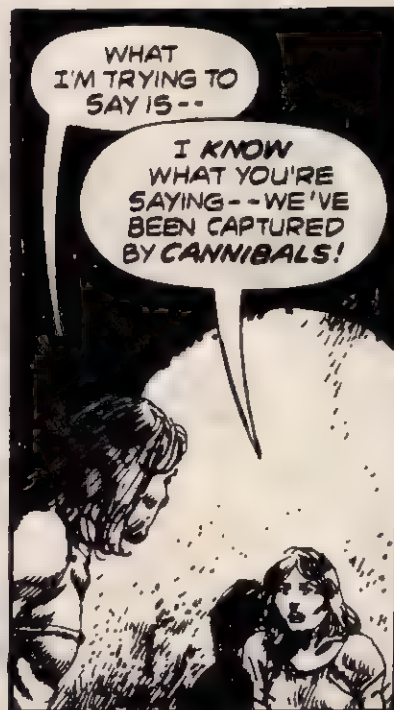
OH MY GOD!
SKULLS...DOZENS
AND DOZENS OF
SKULLS!

THEY MUST
EXECUTE OTHER
SURVIVORS EVERY
DAY!



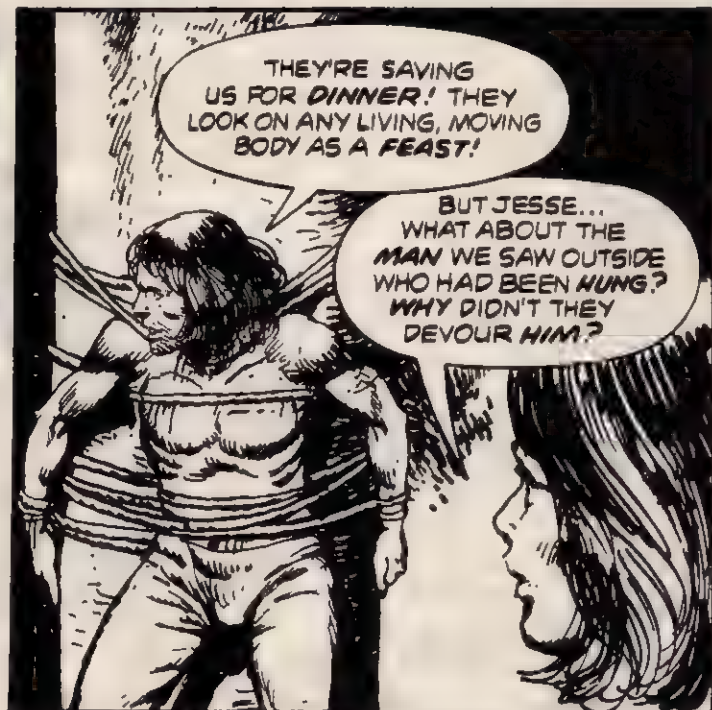
THAT'S *ONE*
POSSIBILITY...BUT
UNFORTUNATELY IT'S
NOT THE *ONLY*
ONE!

I GOT A GOOD
LOOK AT OUR CAPTORS'
TEETH... AND THE WILD
BLOOD LUST IN THEIR
EYES WHEN THEY WENT
FOR ME!



WHAT
I'M TRYING TO
SAY IS --

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING -- WE'VE
BEEN CAPTURED
BY *CANNIBALS*!



THEY'RE SAVING
US FOR *DINNER*! THEY
LOOK ON ANY LIVING, MOVING
BODY AS A *FEAST*!

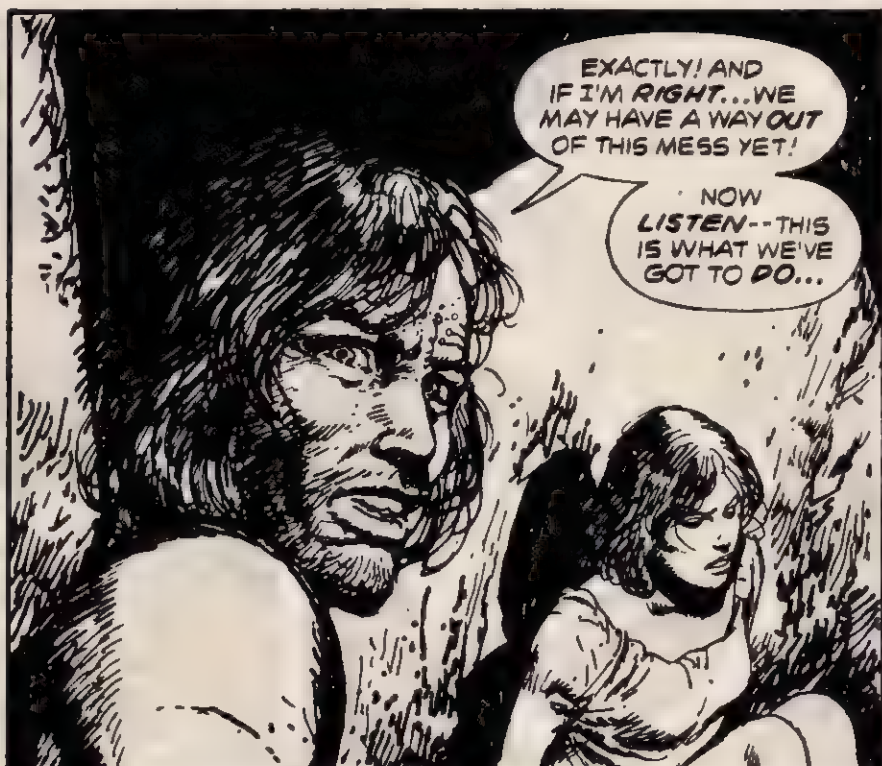
BUT JESSE...
WHAT ABOUT THE
MAN WE SAW OUTSIDE
WHO HAD BEEN *HUNG*?
WHY DIDN'T THEY
DEVOUR HIM?



THAT PUZZLED ME TOO...
UNTIL I REMEMBERED THE
CONDITION OF THAT MAN'S
BODY!

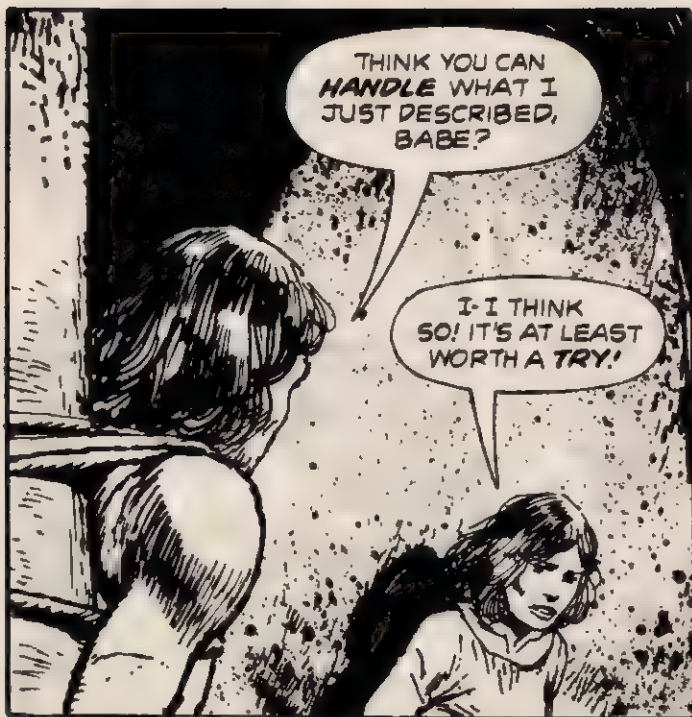
IT WAS *MOTTLED...
SICKLY...* AS IF HE HAD
BEEN HALF-CONSUMED
BY DISEASE BEFORE
HE DIED!

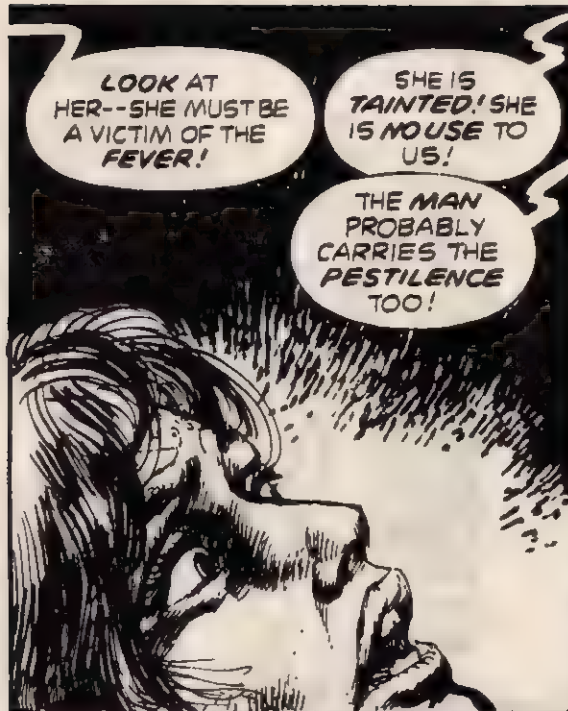
YOU MEAN
THEY WERE *AFRAID*
TO FEED ON HIM--FOR
FEAR OF BEING *CON-
TAMINATED*!



EXACTLY! AND
IF I'M *RIGHT...* WE
MAY HAVE A WAY OUT
OF THIS MESS YET!

NOW
LISTEN--THIS
IS WHAT WE'VE
GOT TO DO...





LOOK AT HER--SHE MUST BE A VICTIM OF THE FEVER!

SHE IS TAINTED! SHE IS NO USE TO US!

THE MAN PROBABLY CARRIES THE PESTILENCE TOO!



IT IS YOUR FAULT, RUKA! YOU BROUGHT THIS DISEASED ONE AMONG US!

NO! LEAVE HER ALONE!



I AM THE ONE WHO RULES! I SAY RUKA MUST BE SACRIFICED IN THEIR STEAD!

NO! IT IS YOU WHO WILL DIE!



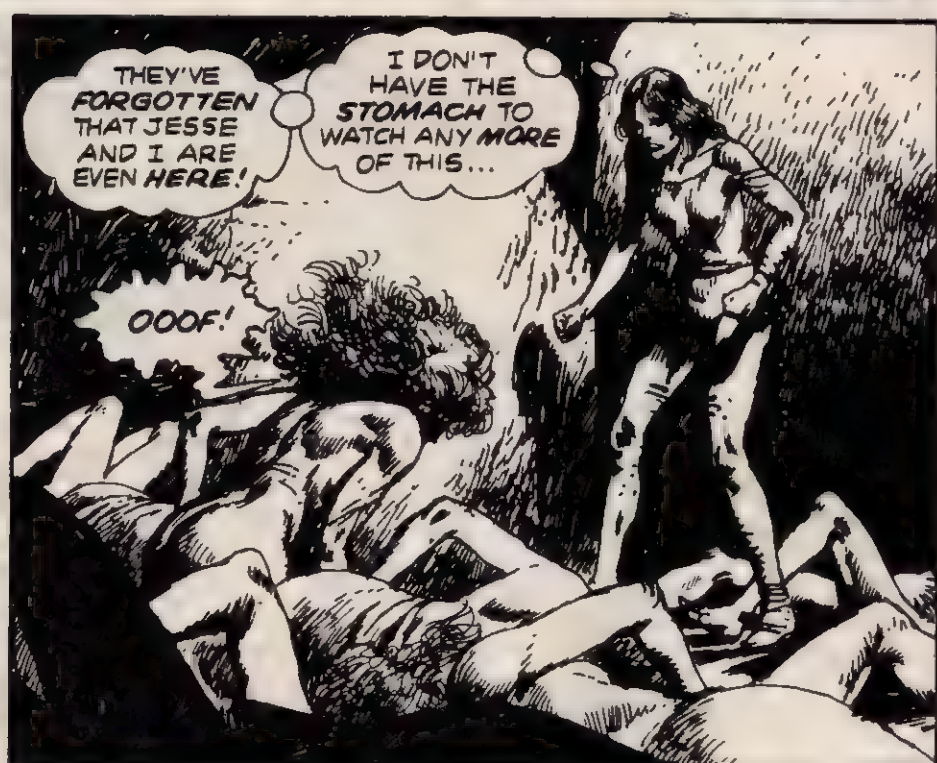
THEY'RE ALL TURNING ON EACH OTHER... LIKE THE PACK OF WILD ANIMALS THEY'VE BECOME!

(CHOKE) NOW THAT THEIR OWN BLOOD HAS STARTED TO FLOW... THEY'VE BEGUN TO DEVOUR EACH OTHER IN A SAVAGE CANNIBALISTIC BATTLE!



UGH!

AAAAIEEE



THEY'VE FORGOTTEN THAT JESSE AND I ARE EVEN HERE!

I DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH TO WATCH ANY MORE OF THIS...

OOOF!



ALLISON!
WHAT A **RELIEF!**
WHEN I HEARD THOSE
INHUMAN **SCREAMS**
COMING FROM THE NEXT
CHAMBER... I THOUGHT
IT WAS **ALL OVER** FOR
US!

T-THEY'RE
DEAD... ALL...
DEAD...

WHAT
HAPPENED?



WE'RE GOING TO
BE ALL RIGHT, BABE!
LET'S GET THE HELL OUT
OF HERE!

JUST
HOLD ME
FOR A
MOMENT...



JESSE!
THIS GIRL MUSTVE
CRAWLED INTO THE
CORRIDOR BEFORE
COLLAPSING-- SHE'S
STILL ALIVE... SHE'S
ONLY **UNCONSCIOUS!**
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE
HER HERE TO **ROT!**

I CAN SEE
THERE'S NO POINT IN
ARGUING THE MATTER
WITH YOU!



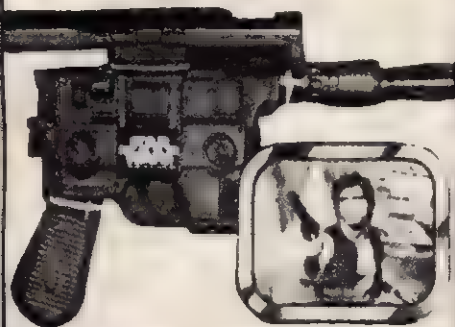
AS THE DARK MANTLE OF NIGHT BEGINS TO FALL,
THE **HORIZON SEEKERS** BEGIN THEIR LONG TREK
DOWN THE SUMMIT-- LEAVING THE **TEMPLE** AND
ITS STENCH OF **DEATH** BEHIND THEM.

ONCE AGAIN LOOKING TO THE
FUTURE, AND WONDERING... HOPING
THEIR NEXT **HORIZON** WILL
PROVIDE THEM WITH THE **ANSWERS**
THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

STAR WARS

**NEW NEW NEW NEW
STAR WARS PRODUCTS**

STAR WARS LASER PISTOL



STAR WARS LASER PISTOL Han Solo's Laser Pistol replica which he used to fight off the Stormtroopers. Secret trigger activates a high or low speed laser sound! 2 "C" batteries not included! #26114/\$9.75

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STAR WARS LASER RIFLE Laser replica with 3 position stock for different appearances! Secret button energizes sound & real laser look. Batteries not included! #26115/\$15.25

DARTH VADER TIE FIGHTER



DARTH VADER TIE FIGHTER Large size model holds the 12 action figures. TIE fighter comes with pop-off solar panels, light up laser canon & laser sound! Batteries not included! #24224/\$17.95

STAR WARS POSTER ART SET



STAR WARS POSTER ART SET Two dramatic new posters of scenes of Star Wars' best moments. Set comes with six coloring pens and helpful coloring hints. Let your mind go wild as you color all the famous Star Wars events from the Cantina to interstellar dog fights! Star Wars lives on in these super large size posters. 17 1/2" x 22" #26122/\$4.75

DARTH VADER FIGURE

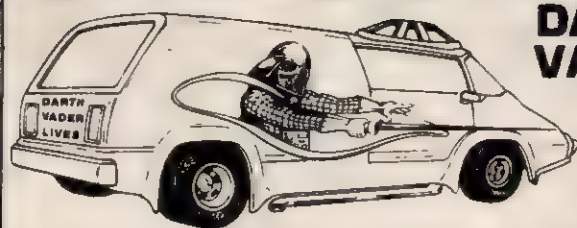


DARTH VADER FIGURE Darth Vader stalks menacingly in this easy to assemble model kit. Darth's figure is 11 1/2" tall and a movable arm grips a nasty 8 3/4" light saber that glows in the dark! This kit is highly detailed and molded in a shiny black plastic. The authentic Star Wars model kit. This is guaranteed to bring you hours of pleasure! #24225/\$5.95

DARTH VADER ACTION KIT



DARTH VADER ACTION KIT Large 10 3/4" kit molded in color is easy to assemble. It has actual breathing sound, is illuminating and is highly realistic. No paint needed. Batteries required! #24212/\$11.95

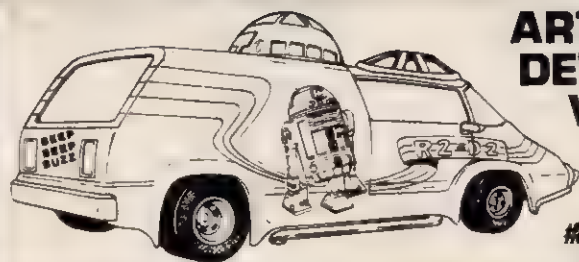


DARTH VADER VAN KIT

#24213/
\$2.25

STAR WARS SNAP TOGETHER VANS

STAR WARS SNAP TOGETHER VANS Now you can have one of the hottest and most exclusive Star Wars products anywhere! These easy to assemble Star Wars vans are completely molded in full color, so not a single drop of paint or glue is required! Just snap together! And, for the first time anywhere, they come with glow in the dark decals for exciting ghostly images of your favorite characters as they move in the dark! Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker and Artoo Detoo!



ARTOO- DETOO VAN KIT

#24215/
\$2.25

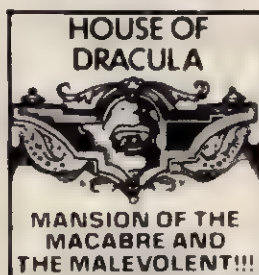


LUKE SKYWALKER VAN KIT

#24214/
\$2.25

UNBELIEVABLE HOME MOVIES! HEART-THROBBING-200' REELS!

HOUSE of DRACULA



In this brilliant shocker the legendary Count Dracula is portrayed, with sinister bravado, by the great character actor John Carradine. As if he wasn't enough, included in the guest list: Frankenstein's monster & the Wolfman, played by Lon Chaney, Jr. The three clash in one of film's most exciting battles! View this in B&W Super 8 only. #22084/\$10.95

PSYCHO



A young woman stops at the Bates Motel and she is brutally murdered while taking a shower. This movie is the most terrifying & the most horrible of all the Hitchcock movies ever produced! This classic of the horror genre stars Anthony Perkins as the psychotic killer & Vera Miles as his intended victim! This film is a terrifying thriller! Super 8mm only, B&W only. #22088/\$10.59

THE MUMMY'S TOMB



We are not in Transylvania but rather in the mysterious land of Egypt. Here is where the bandaged ghoul hangs out ... Dead and buried for who knows how long? But is the Mummy actually dead—or is he in fact—breathing through those bandages? Come a bit closer and see for yourself! B&W in regular 8mm. #2229/\$10.95

FRANKENSTEIN MUST BE DESTROYED



Are you ready for this one? It's all new and all too frightening! The most horrifying "Frankenstein" movie ever filmed! See the most fiendish monster ever conceived! You can view this film in the privacy of your own home ... and scream to your heart's content. Super and regular 8 film in Black and White. Order. #2234/\$10.95

DR. X



This daring movie was one of the most elusive of all the major horror films of the early 1930's. With its great visual style, this film stresses shadowy effects, sharp and angular images. Don't end up in this weird Dr.'s laboratory ... You might never get out! Be sure to order Super or regular 8 film. Black and White only. #2272/\$10.95

MONSTER THAT CHALLENGED THE WORLD



Would you believe a giant mollusk of vaguely lobster like appearance? Having been at the bottom of the sea for billions of years ... he finally surfaces for a breather—and some food ... None other than human blood! Then it's the U.S. Navy to the rescue! Have you any doubt of the outcome? Black & White Super & reg. 8mm. #2274/\$10.95

THE SPIDER



It must eat you to live! You will be amazed at the size of this beast! It's hard to fight back against fifty tons of ugly—creeping black horror! An entire brigade tries its best to stop the spider. Action galore! A Black and White fantasy-film-frolic. Don't waste time in ordering! Super or regular 8mm film. Specify. #2278/\$10.95

WAR of the PLANETS



The Metalunan monsters strike Earth in a reign of terror! They kidnap two Terran scientists and bring them back to Metaluna. And that is just the beginning! Our scientists discover themselves to be in the midst of a universal war on a scale so vast and at a level of horror so unimaginable as to boggle their minds! A 200' real. Super 8 only! #2235/\$10.95

THE SCREAMING SKULL



Released from that manmade hell—a state mental institution, a woman who thinks she has been cured begins to see strange and frightening things. Gradually—horrifically grinning skulls begin to leer at her out of thin air. Will she go mad? Black and white, super 8mm only! #2208/\$10.95

FIRST SPACESHIP ON VENUS



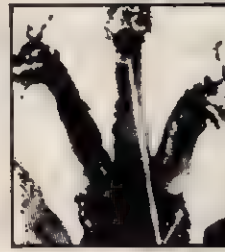
You will be the first ... The very first Earthling to see what is actually happening on the second planet from our sun! One of man's most exciting, most incredible film journeys. Enjoy this wonderful movie ... Plus on the same reel ... Preview attractions! See it in Black and White—Super or regular 8—Buy it today. #2279/\$10.95

GHIDRAH



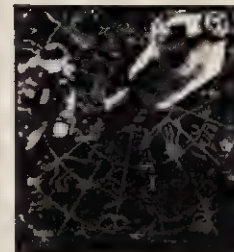
Three heads are better than one ... For this tri-headed creature, anyway. This beast is unreal! He cannot be destroyed by any weapons known to man! Where does this monster evolve from? A soaring meteor! Soaring in to your home in a Black and White movie. Either Super or regular 8mm film. Order yours today and specify. #2281/\$10.95

BATTLES OF GHIDRAH



The three headed beast comes face to face ... with Godzilla, Rodan and Mothra! They are called upon to defend their home planet from the fire breathing baddle from beyond the Stratosphere. Action-packed scenes! Don't dare miss this fantasy movie. Great! Super 8 mm. Black and White. Order now! A classic! #2282/\$10.95

MAROONED



How would you like to be marooned in outer space? This is the movie saga of Ironman One (a space vehicle) and its passengers. A fine science fiction film for everybody! Choose from: Super or regular 8 Color film #22052/\$23.95. Or a Black and White version in Super or regular 8. #22051/\$12.95 Both are really fantastic flicks!

MONSTER FROM A PREHISTORIC PLANET



A giant octopus and an entire family of winged flying griffin-type furries have the country of Japan in an uproar with terror and complete destruction! Their tremendous powers were unbelievable when teamed together! How do all of the people escape from their horrible fates? Available in Super 8 film only. B&W Order now! #22068/\$10.95

THE RAVEN

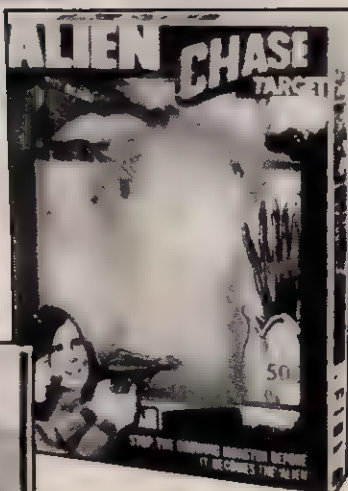


Good God! Vincent Price, Boris Karloff & Peter Lorre in the Edgar Allan Poe tale The Raven! This century's horror and humor. It's funny, it's frightening, it's fantastic! This spicy spoof is a classic for the collector! Regular 8mm in black & white reels only! #22079/\$10.95

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ALIEN CHASE TARGET SET From Alien, the movie, a huge 33" tall outline target of the alien, astrogun that shoots 3 harmless plastic balls & ringing bell for scoring! #26148/\$5.95



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ALIEN BLASTER AND TARGET SET Comes with self standing target, 3 weird flop targets, astrogun shoots plastic suction tipped darts. Target 12"x18 3/4"! #26149/\$12.95



ALIEN PAPERBACK

ALIEN



ALIEN PAPERBACK Alan Dean Foster novelizes the movie! In the depths of space the crew of the Nostromo encounters an awesome galactic horror. The real horror begins when they meet the alien within! #21381/\$2.25

THE BOOK OF ALIEN:

THE BOOK OF ALIEN Here are the designs, sketches and blueprints rendered by four of the top fantasy illustrators in the western world: Moebius, Chris Foss, Ron Cobb and H.R. Giger! And there are interviews with the Art Directors, Costume Designers, Producers, Directors and Screenwriters. A 96 page soft-cover with 50 in full color! #21376/\$7.95



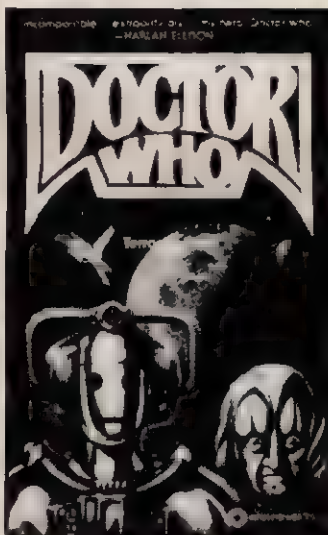
ALIEN: THE ILLUSTRATED STORY



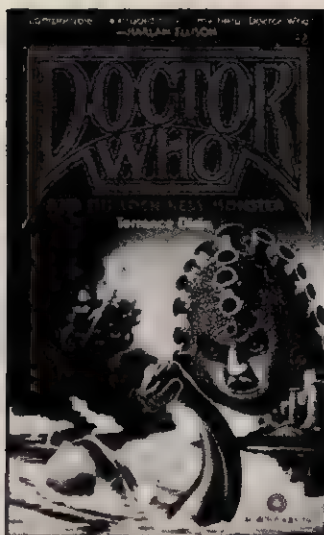
ALIEN: THE ILLUSTRATED STORY Walt Simonson and Archie Goodwin have teamed up to bring you Alien in full color, vibrant illustrations! A story not to be imagined in your wildest dreams or nightmares! Relive the movie through Walt Simonson's superb illustrations and Archie Goodwin's taut style! #21377/\$3.95

DOCTOR WHO PAPERBACKS

4 BOOKS FOR \$5.98 — 6 BOOKS FOR \$8.95



REVENGE OF THE CYBERMAN Doctor Who is caught in the middle of an interstellar battle between the dreadful Cybermen and the horrible Vogans with the planet Voga as its prize! Can the Vogan hang on to their home? Will Who help? #21378/\$1.75



THE LOCH NESS MONSTER Yes, Veronica, there really is a Loch Ness monster! It is Skarsen, a monster child of the defeated and exiled Zygons. Dr Who must confront them and stop them in their plan to take over all of the Earth! #21379/\$1.75



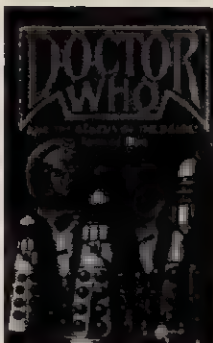
DAY OF THE DALEKS The biomechanical Daleks attack as Dr Who makes it to American movies and T.V. This hit T.V. series from England's B.B.C. takes the lead in science fiction adventure. See why it has been running on British T.V. for 15 years now! This is the first adventure of the Dr Who series. #21358/\$1.75



DOOMSDAY WEAPON Doctor Who faces the ultimate weapon, the weapon that will destroy all Earth in one blow. A weapon that can rip the fabric of the universe to shreds. A weapon that will unravel time and space. Dr Who marches on in this the second installment of this fabulous adventure series! #21359/\$1.75



DINOSAUR INVASION 350 Million years ago the dinosaurs ruled the Earth. No one expected them to return, but Dr Who lands in a London filled with 'em and devoid of human life! Dr Who must stop a bizarre plot to reverse time as a mad scientist tries to establish a golden age by eliminating mankind! #21369/\$1.75



GENESIS OF THE DALEKS The Time Lords send Doctor Who to Skaro, the planet on which the Daleks evolved, and to a time before the Daleks came to be. Can he prevent the birth of these insidious machines? The Daleks are out to ravage the Earth and the universe. Doctor Who is in for a cliff-hanger! #21370/\$1.75

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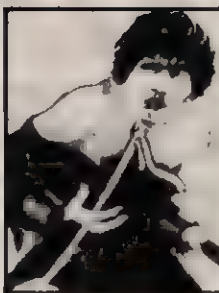
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Dr. JEKYLL AS Mr. HYDE This 9" plastic model kit glows in the dark and is easy to assemble! #2401/\$3.00



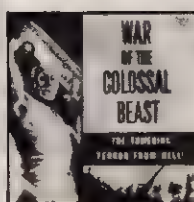
HUMAN SKELETON An accurate glowing skeleton with movable arms, legs & head! #24172/\$4.00

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Christopher Lee as one of the greatest Frankenstein monsters! A 200' reel of suspense. Both are in regular and Super 8! Color! #2223/\$23.95 or B&W #2222/\$12.95



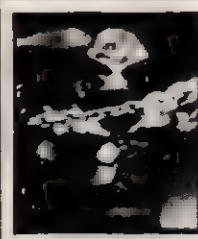
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Exposed to the rays of the world's first plutonium bomb blast, this poor man is growing at a rate of 10' a day! Will he destroy L.A.? Super & Reg 8. #2232/\$10.95



WAR-GODS OF THE DEEP

The most fantastic journey ever on film! Vincent Price stars in this incredible movie. What a trip! Enjoy Vincent's blood drenched act! Super 8 only! #2206/\$10.95



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In the steaming depths of the Amazon's Black Lagoon, a gillman creature from 150 million years ago prowls! 200' reel. Don't swim in the Amazon! Super 8 #2205/\$10.95



IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE

The Xenomorph strikes from the depths of space in this incredibly frightening version of Ray Bradbury's unearthly movie of terror!! Reg 8 only! #2233/\$10.95



THE DEADLY MANTIS

Down from the heavens swoops the gigantic mantis to prey upon all humanity and wreak doomsday destruction upon every nation of the Earth! Regular 8 only! #2204/\$10.95



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The original Frankenstein starring Boris Karloff as the Frankenstein monster. This is a must for all horror film buffs. Boris sends you shivers! Sup 8 only! #2201/\$10.95



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POE'S TELL-TALE HEART

Edgar Allan Poe's classic with sound! James Mason narrates this never to forgotten epic! Ultrasonic sound on a 200 foot reel! Regular 8 only! #2231/\$23.95



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Atomic activity hatches a giant prehistoric bird. The bird is hungry and scours entire horrified nations for sustenance. A huge 200 foot reel. Sup 8 only! #2211/\$10.95



VARAN THE UNBELLEVABLE

Armed with his huge spiked tusks and horrid scales and talons, Varan claws his way up from the world below! A terrifying 200 foot reel! Regular 8 only! #2212/\$10.95



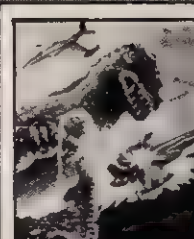
CRIMSON CULT

Boris Karloff stars as the Master of Evil. This is his last and most shocking role! And if that weren't enough Christopher Lee is here too! Super 8 only! #2206/\$10.95



SON OF FRANKENSTEIN

Bela Lugosi & Basil Rathbone are featured in one of many masterful sequels to the original fright classic! A must for all horror fanatics! Reg. & Super 8. #2215/\$10.95



YONGARY

Watch this ugly mammoth being as he invades the Earth. He is a monster from the dark-deep, out to destroy all. A must! A 200' foot reel! Super 8 only! #2206/\$10.95



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Reversing the powers of nature with atomic energy, Dr. Cyclops reduces human beings to the pitiful size of mice, then toys with them. Reg & Super 8! #2219/\$10.95

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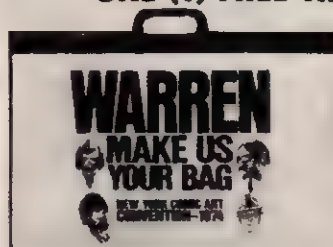
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YOU CAN CHANGE ITS SIZE,
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WIZARD OF OZ America's favorite all time fantasy film in which Dorothy gets whirled away from Kansas and over the rainbow! All the madcap adventures and all the great production numbers & songs are here. 18 minutes, 370 foot super 8, in a superb color & sound film! #22127/\$55.95

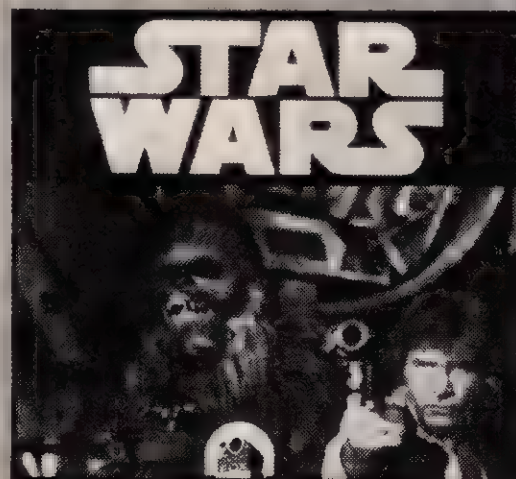


LOGAN'S RUN Thrilling science fiction fantasy of the 23rd century where you are over-the-hill and dead on your 30th birthday! Farrah Fawcett Majors and Michael York seek to escape this dazzling world in this 18 minute, 370 foot super 8, in a superb color & sound film! #22126/\$55.95

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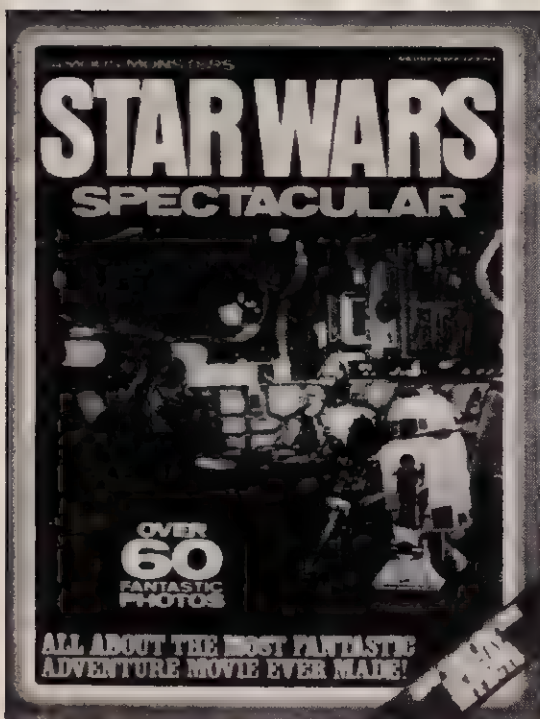


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Joe Johnston's drawings for Star Wars are pulled together in this 8 1/2"x11" paperback which is chock full of black and white sketches of every conceivable machine, pod, ship, weapon and Death Star itself. The drawings are the initial designs for all the models from the film with commentary about the problems of ea. sketch! 96 pages. #26028/\$4.95

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STORMTROOPER MASK! Gleaming white, rigid plastic mask with see through plastic eyes. #25006/\$43.95

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DARTH VADER MASK! Shining black, rigid plastic, full-helmet/mask of the evil Jedi! 2 pieces. #25008/\$26.95



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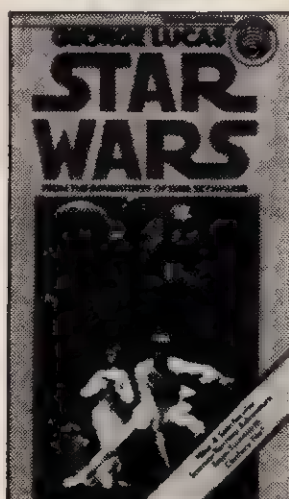
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Not a mask but a make-up kit which will change your own horrible face into the snarling King of Gorillas. Created by Dick "The Exorcist" Smith. Flex Flesh included! Order now! #26022 GORILLA MAKE-UP KIT! \$15.95



Film your own horror movies or just terrify friends with the contents of this make-up kit. It contains Flex Flesh with molds for noses, eyes, ears, scarring and more! #26008 HORROR MAKE-UP KIT! \$13.95



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BEFORE



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FLY AWAY
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12 1/2" TALL



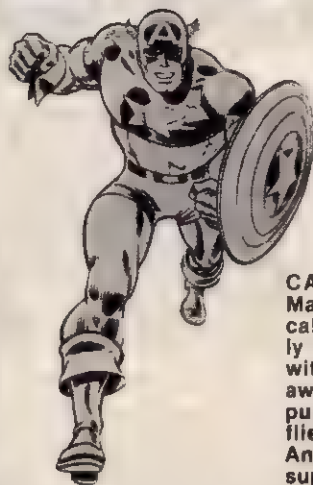
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INCREDIBLE
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THE INCREDIBLE HULK 12 1/2" of pectoral popping, but lovable green ugliness! Powerhouse of muscle molded green plastic with every bulging detail! Fly away mechanism & costume! #26173/\$13.98



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SPIDER-MAN He swings through the air with the greatest of ease! Spiderman comes complete with a 4' web line, custom form fitting costume and he is 12 1/2" tall! Pull action ring & he flies up a string! #26172/\$13.98



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CAPTAIN AMERICA Marvelous ole America! He is 12 1/2" tall, fully posable and comes with super action fly away mechanism! Just pull the ring and he flies up the string! Another in our super heroes collection! #26171/\$13.98



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ROBIN Gotham's dynamic duo are ready to fight criminals with their magnetic hands & feet so they can cling to any steel surface! This posable figure has the incredible fly away ring too! #26175/\$15.98

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GREAT PLASTIC MODELS and IRON-ON!

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Stage your own amazing adventures on this fine model of the Enterprise's command bridge. The kit includes figures of Captain Kirk, Spock and Sulu. #24174/\$3.25

U.S.S. ENTERPRISE STARSHIP



In all of its streamlined glory—this is the Starship Enterprise! One of the most advanced starships ever designed, it carries a crew of hundreds on its five year mission through space. Its purpose is to promote peace and understanding but it is a formidable adversary when attacked by a hostile force. The flagship for Starfleet is capable of Warp Drive, fires Laser Cannons and can launch Photon Torpedoes. You should have a model of this magnificent craft. When assembled, it is a foot long! Well detailed! #2460/\$2.95

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This triple-hulled structure was a welcomed sight for many a starship crew. The model is a monster among model crafts. Assembled, it is over 16" in diameter! Miniature Enterprise is also included. #24175/\$3.25

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The Star Trek Exploration Set comes with a Phaser Pistol, a Communicator, and a Tricorder. Built life-size, these 3 pieces come in one kit, each one is plastic and detailed. #24111/\$3.25

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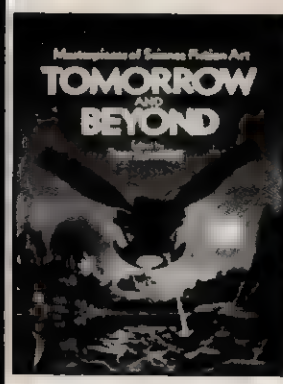
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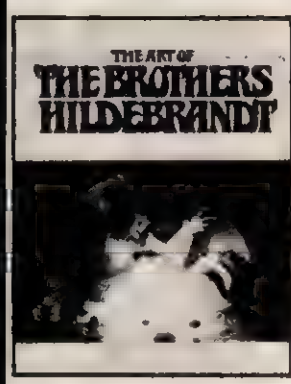
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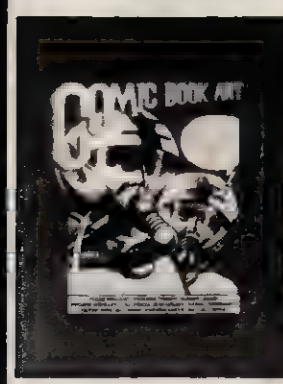
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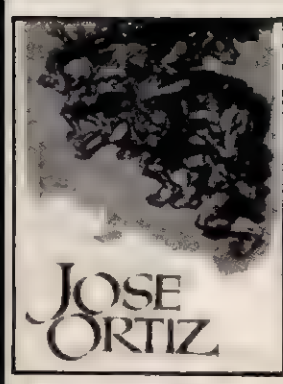
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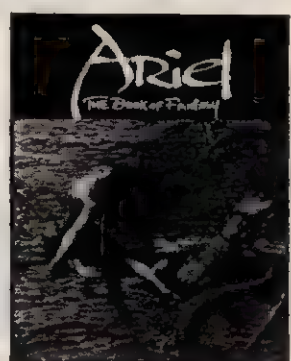
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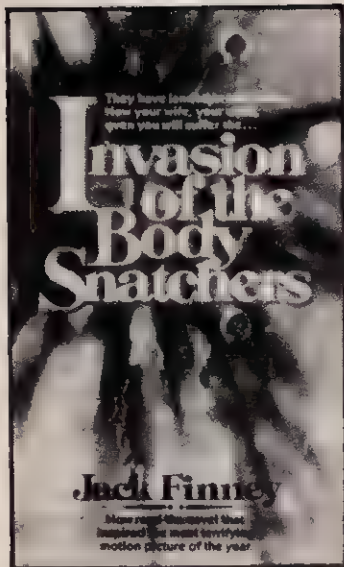


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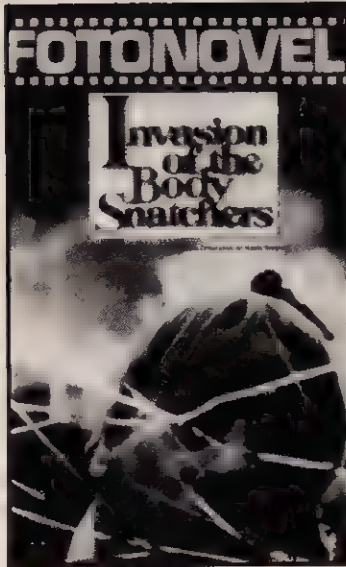
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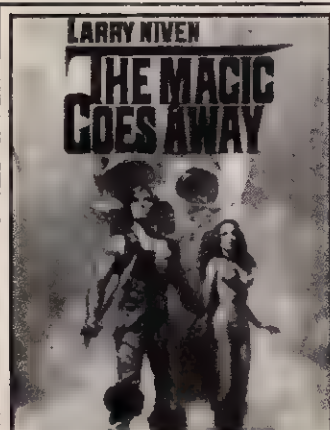
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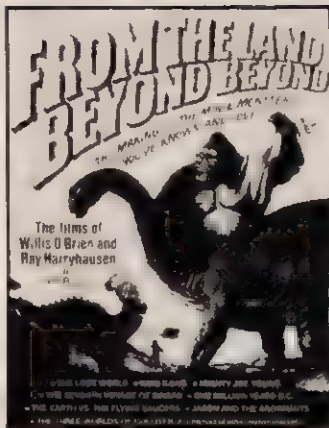


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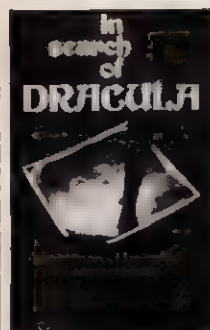
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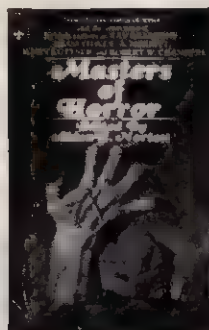
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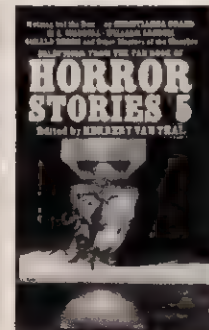
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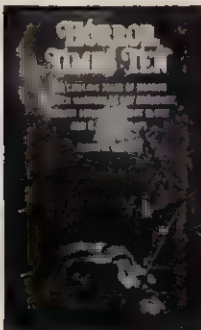
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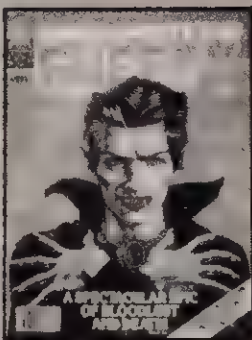
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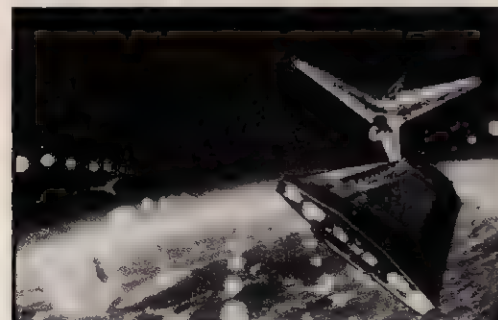
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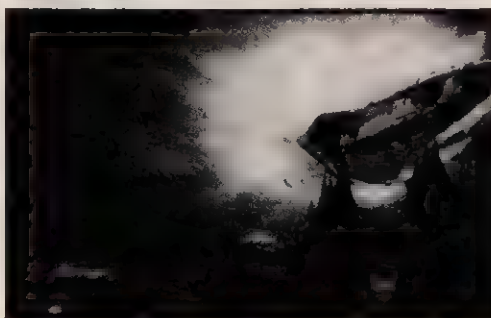
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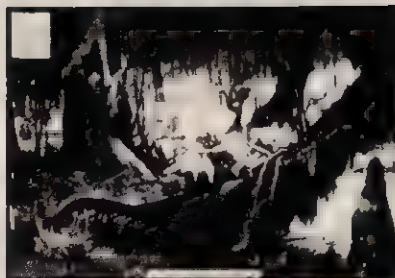


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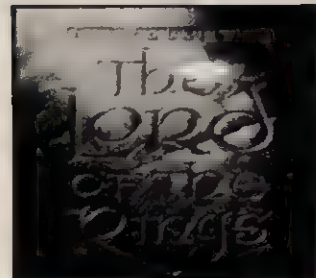
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NEW!

THE BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

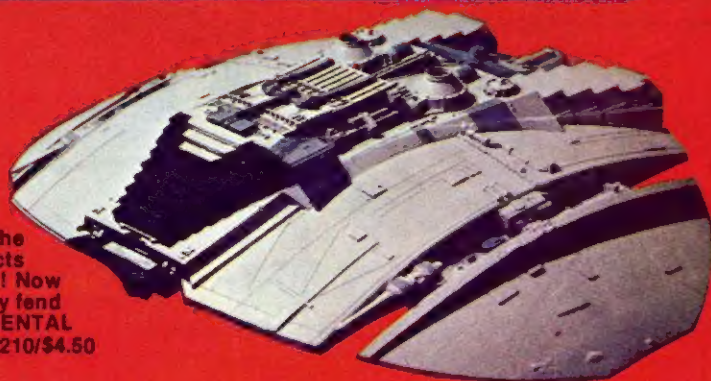
The Battlestar Galactica, the flag ship of the fleet, the last flying fortress of mankind fleeing the Cylon tyranny, is reproduced in minute & loving detail in this gigantic 21 1/4" model. This easy to assemble kit comes with a display base and decals. This Battlestar is the computer crafted creation of John Dykstra of Star Wars fame! A super addition to any astronaut's collection! #24235/\$7.95

GALACTIKITS

CYLON RAIDERS AND COLONIAL VIPERS
They're Out of this World
Easy to Assemble

CYLON RAIDER

Cylon raider model kit from the A.B.C. hit series Battlestar Galactica! This easy to assemble model kit comes with display base, decals, is 11" long, has ray guns, solar energy panels, access hatches, stabilizers and working missile launchers for action packed adventures! The T.V. series that has the nation agog with the most advanced special effects on the airwaves is brought home to you in these dazzlingly detailed kits! Now you can follow the adventures of Adama, Starbuck and all the rest as they fend off the Cylon's in manta like spaceship. PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED #24210/\$4.50



COLONIAL VIPER

Viper Sting Ship from the Colonial Fleet of the Battlestar Galactica. This easy to assemble model kit comes with display base, decals, complex stabilizers, a control center, rocket jet ports, working missile launchers and is 11" long! John Dykstra, the special effects wizard of Star Wars, has struck again with this beautifully detailed death dealing dreadnought! Sleek, fleet, powerful, and packed with all the destructive weapons that super science can think of, the Viper Sting ship is the last hope of humanity as the Colonials flee the destruction of their home planets and the dreaded Cylons! Create your own action packed adventures with these models! PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED #24209/\$4.50

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

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Authentic Soil from Vlad's Castle in Transylvania

DUST from DRACULA'S DOMAIN, Actual Earth (Guaranteed Authentic) from the Crumbling Ruins of the Legendary Vlad, the Mad Monarch who generations ago terrorized Transylvanians and inspired Bram Stoker to create the famous masterpiece of vampirism, DRACULA. There are 3 billion people on this planet but only 5,000 can wear this incredible creation. A striking ornamentally-wrought, beautiful piece of art in itself, this fabulous pendant is equally suitable for the neck of man or woman.

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